

M E M O I R S
A N D
A D V E N T U R E S
O F A
F L E A ;

IN WHICH ARE INTERSPERSED
M A N Y H U M O R O U S
C H A R A C T E R S A N D A N E C D O T E S.

I N T W O V O L U M E S. .

V O L. II.



L O N D O N :
P R I N T E D F O R T. A X T E L L.
M D C C L X X X V.

C O N T E N T S

O F T H E

S E C O N D V O L U M E.

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T H E

M E M O I R S
AND
A D V E N T U R E S
OF A
F L E A.

C H A P. VIII.

*Introduction ; ---- a Digression concerning
Boroughs ; --- the Troop open with the Fair
Penitent ; --- most of them very fine ; ---
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surprising Change in her Situation.*

AS in my little diminutive
walk of life, it must not
be expected I can give a regu-
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lar history of every individual I lived with, it is impossible;---ay, even if I had a hundred pound a volume, as I am told one of my brother authors had, which made him spin out morality, and lengthen an unaffected dialogue between two green-sick misses in one sex, and fellow-rakes in the other, to an incredible length; — it enabled him also to draw a pattern of a modern fine gentleman, as coldly and inoffensive as when he first came from the nursery education of his mother's maids; — not that I think a man ought to be a profest rake, or a more impious atheist to be a gentleman; — so far from it, that I
would

would have them pictured with every human virtue, and yet (as fallen angels) capable of every human failing;—light and shade is absolutely as necessary for an historian as a painter; and I believe the generality of my readers will approve my judgment in this piece of criticism, as few will ever meet with, so fewer still should ever expect to meet with a perfect man—the best rise to perfection, but one degree above the common errors of their kind.

But here let me stop, lest, like a little impertinent insect as I am, I should puzzle myself, by daring to dictate to man!

let me drop this, I say, and re-assume my late story, and in some measure conclude it.

To begin then : — the waggon being arrived safe at the destined port, all was jollity, as the troop was now fully compleat : — their salutations and civilities were past, and the new members paid every proper reverence and respect to the old ; — different lodgings were provided for the different parties ; but Mr. and Mrs. Thunder, being supposed to be the principal support of this excursion, had the honour of making up a party with Mr. Stormwell the manager, at head quarters ; the
constables

constables were all secured with free tickets, and they had likewise an assurance from Sir Gilbert, that provided they conformed to the rules and orders of the place, but above all, if they obeyed his commands, he would patronize them.

It is well known, that every large town or pitiful borough in England, has a different lord, knight, or esquire, who, through the meanness of its inhabitants, are allowed to sell or to direct it. — A fool with a title, or a rascal with a great estate, may here sell the freedom of four or five thousand wretches, who, being devoid of sense or spirit,

will join in raising trophies to their own destruction, and shout their hireling members through their polluted streets ; — get drunk as swine to drown the little sense they have ; — and swear, after they have suffered themselves to be bought like asses, mules, and other beasts of burthen, for a price, that their shouts are for liberty and property ! — When all their boasted freedom, strange to tell ! is the poor right of a day, to get princely drunk at the expence of their betrayers ; which expence is oft times repaid by additional taxes, — from the public reservoir ; — or, perhaps, by a snug sinecure for life ; with
the

the addition of no other incumbrance, than that of endangering the loss of their consciences, which is of trifling import, by saying no, when they should say ay; and ay, instead of no! without any other bad intent, than that of merely serving themselves, without the most distant thought of their more mad electors, who, having suffered themselves to be bought, were careless how they were sold, and waited but for the next opportunity to enslave themselves further by the same means.

Such was the man, and such was the command Sir Gilbert had

B 4 here;

here ; --- and such men too oft, with all our boasted freedom, are our leaders ; — alas ! poor England ! — to talk of choice is a subject now forgot ; a poor man is turned out of his house or farm for a refusal ; — a man in middling circumstances loses an opportunity of providing for his family ; — the man of acquired opulence loses the countenance of his superior ; — the doctor loses a patient, the parson a living, the lawyer a fee ; — in short, interest is a long chain that binds numbers to a patron, — strange infatuation ! though at the same time he is but a dependent himself.

Every

Every thing being now prepared, and the actors thus fortified with the assistance of the constables, and the patronage of Sir Gilbert, the theatre was announced to be opened the following evening with the Tragedy of the Fair Penitent, and the Farce of the Lying Valet. To give the reader an idea of the theatre, would be saying nothing, as most of them are composed of the same materials, and built on the same principles ; suffice it then to say, that this theatre, being superior to many, was built over a stable, to which the audience ascended by means of a ladder ; which, in order to preserve the ladies de-

licacy and reputation, was hung with canvas; the propriety of which the reader will doubtless observe: Sir Gilbert, indeed, being gouty, with his friends, were admitted through the stable, and from thence conveyed to the stage-box through the hay-loft, by means of a chair fastened with ropes, and hauled up as on the side of a ship.

With these accommodations, the night being come, the theatre was opened, and graced the presence of their patron, Sir Gilbert, who, with his company and attendants, as the reader has been before informed, took up the stage-box, which, considering

sidering the situation, was rather above the ordinary style; for the manager having himself a little knowledge of painting, had curiously bedaubed the arms of Sir Gilbert's family on a royal pasteboard, which he cut out, and stuck up over his box, for which he received the plaudits of the audience as a man of taste and real genius; which indeed was all he got by his ingenuity, Sir Gilbert thinking the honour of his attendance was sufficient, without any other gratuity. Sir Gilbert and his company being thus seated, Mrs. Turnip, and Mrs. Small-coal, the two constables wives, one of whom was a blacksmith,

and the other a gardener, being the lady mayoreffes of the place, made an elegant *entrée* with their free tickets, and were honoured with the first seat in the pit; which were reserved purposely for them, it being one of the stipulations of their agreement, in order to preserve the continuation of the knight's patronage, over whom their elocution was very persuasive, they being of his own appointing, and of course ever ready and willing to execute his commands.

The company being all seated, and in good humour, the music began to play, which consisted

sisted of two blind fiddlers, a black with a French-horn, and a Jew with a hurdy-gurdy, who had travelled with them upon a venture, to play upon one share between them; imagining their instrumental abilities would do more towards attracting the audience, and drawing good houses, than the joint abilities of the theatrical troop; besides, should they happen to fail in their hopes, they knew there were fools enough in the town to answer their purpose, and enable them to defray their expences back again, besides living well while they were there.

At

At length the bell rung, and the curtain drew up, which, for want of a better, was a blanket borrowed from the master of the inn where the manager and Mr. Thunder lodged; who, being a good-natured, easy man, was contented with the joint security of the two constables, who were kind enough to answer for them, added to the manager and Mr. Thunder, who were now very much respected; it was to be sure rather of the yellowest, with a hole worn fairly through the middle, which indeed gave them the advantage of reconnoitering their audience; but, in spite of all, the reflection of the stage-lights, which

which were trimmed with the best train-oil, gave the curtain a most noble appearance; and the house, with the addition of the stables, a most salubrious smell.

Mr. Thunder now made his appearance, and, in an occasional prologue, made by the clerk of the parish, acquainted the audience with the innate, heaven-born qualities of their god-like patron; extolled the piety of the rector, the sobriety of the justice, and the modesty of the ladies; in short, not a class of people in the town, but had some oblique compliment paid either to their sense or their pocket.

pocket. Mr. Thunder had no sooner finished this sublime piece of poetry, than he received the universal applause of the whole house, who, in one voice, cried out *encore, encore*; but Mr. Thunder considering the heavy task he had to undergo in the course of the evening, being obliged to represent the Lying Valet, after having performed the part of Lothario, very politely came forward, and craved the indulgence of the audience, to remit that part of the *sentence* of their approbation, for the reasons above-mentioned, which he recited to them; and begged leave to assure the company, that if there was any merit

rit in the composition, which undoubtedly he said, had many *good strokes* in it, he could not arrogate that merit to himself, it being the whole and sole production of Mr. Amen, the parish-clerk and undertaker; who undertook that part at their first interview, merely on the score of friendship, and to revive the reputation of prologues, which of late consisted of nothing original, but were composed chiefly of flimsy quotations from old ballads and obsolete plays, whereas the present was composed of originalities collected on the spot.

The house was so well pleased with this apology of Mr. Thunder's,

Thunder's, and the information he had given them of the author of their obligations, that they very kindly remitted that part of his *sentence*, and permitted him to retire, in order to prepare himself to appear in the character of Lothario, which was the tragedy intended for representation that evening.

During this suspension a whisper went about of "that's he!" "that's Mr. Amen." — Now it is to be remarked, that Mr. Amen being in the house while Mr. Thunder was delivering his apology and explanation, sat himself down with great modesty amidst the gaping multitude, who

who were standing up in amaze at Mr. Thunder's vociferous delivery of his production, (which we have been since informed was the first offspring of his muse) to shelter himself from that unbounded applause Mr. Thunder received, which he was conscious within himself was due only to his own merit, having since frequently declared, that he had no judgment at all in the delivery thereof; that he vociferated it by main strength only, and that if it had not been for the incidents that were worked up in the poem, together with some other concurrent circumstances that could not be misunderstood, it must undoubtedly

edly have met with the contempt of the audience, and damn'd his fame for ever as a poet, which he was ambitious to gain.

Mr. Amen's modesty however, procured him a temporary shelter, which was but of short continuance; for no sooner was the company recovered from the surprise Mr. Thunder's oratorical abilities had thrown them into, than they began to seat themselves quietly, in expectation of the remainder of the evening's entertainment. It was at this time (the company being seated nearly upon a level) that Mr. Amen's folio cauliflower-wig

wig began to be conspicuous, which caused the whisper before-mentioned, of that's he! that's Mr. Amen! — The eyes of the audience were now transferred from Mr. Thunder to Mr. Amen; — the applause was trebly bestowed; and every one looked up to the parish-clerk, as the poet-laureat of the age; even Sir Gilbert, the patron of the stage, though unused to such courtesy, (occasioned, we will suppose, by the gout, which had rendered his limbs stiff and unpliant) rose, and with a significant smile, and reiterated bows, joined the audience in their acclamations, and kindly invited him to partake of his seat;

feat; this condescension on his part, gained him universal popularity, at least for the evening, which was expressed in three cheers; Mr. Amen having by this time taken his seat, and the prompter's bell ringing, they were immediately seated quietly, and waited with impatience for the continuation of the performance.

It will be needless for me to give an account of a play so well known to all the world; it is sufficient then that I say, it is one of Rowe's best productions, and needs no comment. — Mr. Thunder bellowed out the part of Lothario with as
much

much justice and energy, as he had before done the prologue ; to which, if we add his graceful walk and elegant action (which was beyond doubt indisputable) we may pronounce with the audience, that they “ never should look upon his like again !” Mrs. Thunder represented the character of Calista ; and had it not been that her tongue was rather too short (a very unusual case with a woman) she would really have been very decent. Her dress was an old and very elegant brocade, well stiffened with dirt, which added much to its richness ; and, to all outward appearance, was wove in the days of

of good queen Bess. Mr. and Mrs. Thunder perfectly agreed in respect of strength of voice, she being rather of the masculine kind, and of the true Hibernian breed, full six feet two inches high, with a little of the brogue, which rather heightened the rapture of the audience, who, *una voce*, pronounced them the best actors in company, because they spoke the loudest of the troop.

Indeed, in most country theatres, rant and noise are two of the most necessary qualifications for the commencement of a great actor. An heroic strut, something like antient Pistol's,
is

is absolutely necessary; and, in a terrible moving love-scene, a grimace, somewhat like the pain occasioned by the cholic, has a good effect; — such a man, in a rural ignorant audience, must be a London player, he makes such a bustle about it.

Mr. Stormwell played the character of Sciolto; his tragedy groans, both in his misfortunes and at his death, had the desired effect, and even a most unfeeling audience wept, without the assistance of onions! — Tragedy groans, properly tuned and well adapted, are very moving affairs!

Horatio and Altamont were spoke most according to nature; but as nature has a very small share in the ear or feeling of a country audience, they only pronounced, that those there men were no players at all; for they speaks just as we do when we are talking together; — they makes no noise about it; — here they unknowingly paid them the greatest compliment.

Rofanno was a young spouter from the Morris Dancers, whom we shall pass over in silence, being convinced he had studied the taste of porter in preference to acting.

The

The part of Lavinia was performed by Mrs. Stormwell, who was rather of too large a size to say, my little heart is satisfied with thee; her voice was none of the softest, though it was not altogether to be called manly. She was elegantly dressed in flowered or brocaded flannel, which made her at least a shining figure; —the men's clothes were also of flannel of different hues, very aptly edged with gilt leather; to which add their ruffles, which were made of paper stamped in imitation of lace, they cut no despicable appearance.

Miss Sedgwick played the part of Lucilla, and was really

in character ; her dress, which was her own, was a blue silk sack, which had been carefully preserved, and seemed to own the wearer had known better times ; indeed, her manner of acting was such as would not have disgraced a London theatre. Her figure was delicately elegant, and a kind of diffidence which overspread her countenance, seemed to indicate she had “ that within which passeth shew.”—Trifling as I am in the scale of life, and obnoxious as human kind in general is to me, I could not refuse the tear of sympathy to this seemingly young unfortunate. Her voice was so plaintive, and her manner

ner

ner of acting so delicately chaste, that the audience seemed to feel for her distresses, which, though exhibited on the stage, were not imaginary, but the result of woes innumerable.

They played three nights that week, when the company being in want of men, Mrs. Crotchet made her appearance in the character of Foigard, in the *Stratagem*! — to be sure it was disputed whether she talked English, Irish, French or Dutch, in her performance; some of the audience thought all four; but others of superior knowledge, concluded it was no language at all; — however, that

passed muster ; —but, on her second entrance, to make her look more Irish or more manly, for which it was designed I cannot tell, they daubed her nose very thick with Scotch snuff, which set her a sneezing so violently, that she could not speak a word ; and, what was worse than all, by over-straining, she burst the capital button of her breeches, when, O dire disgrace ! they fell over her knees, to the great astonishment and mirth of the spectators, who now clapped so loud, as to make the old lady think she had pleased them at last ; but when she found the occasion of their mirth, it was with the utmost difficulty she was prevailed

prevailed to go on again to finish her part.

Some of the young fellows of the town, who called themselves bucks, if human nature can produce a more disagreeable animal, impudent and unmeaning ! ignorant and ill-bred ! a compound of oaths, lyes, and immorality — without sense to entertain, or wit to amuse, made a racketing party one night to the play, when three or four of these hopeful sons of ignorance, who possessed a little more brass than the rest, came behind the scenes to lounge away the time, and confuse the actors. “ This
 “ Miss Sedgwick, Jack, is a
 C 4 “ damn’d

“ damn’d fine girl, but most
 “ confoundedly modest though !
 “ hark’ee, Tom ! I warrant you
 “ she knows the turf to a shav-
 “ ing ; —— a five-and-three-
 “ penny - piece well turned
 “ would fetch her ! ” — “ Ay,
 “ ay,” cries another, “ they
 “ may fetch her down with
 “ small shot ; she’s to be had ! ”

Miss Sedgwick was the object of
 their attention for several suc-
 ceeding evenings, when the sa-
 vages renewed the tale of Cy-
 mon and Iphigenia ; — until at
 last, over a brutal bottle at one
 of their nocturnal sacrifices to
 Bacchus, they laid a scheme to
 carry her off, which was to take
 place the next night, according
 to

to the following plan : — when they had made themselves sufficiently drunk, to be hardened in their purport, (pity it is, that drink should be as an opiate to lay the intellects of a wise man asleep ; but a much greater pity that it should allay every little trace of reason and reflection in the breast of fools ; pity it is, a wise man should ever drown his understanding in the red-sea of port, or that fools should receive additional folly from its intoxicating sense-destroying qualities) they laid in ambush, waiting with impatience and anxiety for the appearance of Miss Sedgwick, who was the object of their brutal lust ; how

far they succeeded the reader will soon learn ; Mrs. Crotchet, through her good behaviour, was received by Miss Sedgwick as a companion in her apartment ; indeed, when she was informed in what light an actresses in the country was looked upon, she found a female friend doubly necessary. It happened this same evening, that Mrs. Crotchet had been playing the old maid, when these pretty sparks seeing her cross the street to Miss Sedgwick's lodgings, by the faint glimmering of a young moon, took her for the lady herself, whom they immediately seized upon, and placed her on horseback behind young 'squire Graceless,

Graceless, who instantly galloped off with his supposed inestimable prize. Happy it was for Miss Sedgwick, that she had been that night confined to her room by a slight indisposition, which prevented her appearance. Miss Sedgwick thought Mrs. Crotchet made a long stay, which made her very uneasy; with what impatience did she count the hours of the long night!—how did she fear some terrible misfortune had befallen the poor old lady!—but being in arrears with her landlady, she dared not call a soul up to dissipate her uneasiness, for fear of giving her offence, having already heard it disput-

ed by the charitable heads of the family, whether, if she should die in the house, her clothes would sell for enough to defray the funeral expences; or whether it was proper they should go to the overseers, and get them to pass the poor unhappy young lady to her own parish in the cripple-cart. — Shocking as this must be to one in her situation, she bore it with greatness of mind, and treated it with the contempt it merited. She waited till four o'clock, but no Mrs. Crotchet; when tired out with grief and anxiety she retired to bed, and endeavoured to compose herself to sleep; but the loss of Mrs. Crotchet, who
was

was now necessary to her, prevented her sleeping. At length, when morning came, and the maid went down to open the door, who should make her appearance but madam Crotchet, piteously lamenting her situation, which to be sure was truly ridiculous; for these jockies no sooner found out their mistake (which was a grievous one to them) than they held a council to know how to dispose of her, and what kind of punishment they should inflict upon the object of their rage; one was for drowning her; another was for scalping her; and a third was for burning her for a witch; at length Tom Bumkin, justice Bum-

Bumkin's second son, hit upon a very happy experiment, which, though not quite so dangerous as either of the others, was as disagreeable an operation as any one need undergo. It was no other than the ever-memorable invention of the Americans upon some of our English brethren, that of tarring and feathering; which, notwithstanding all the tears and entreaties of the poor old lady, they effected with astonishing expedition, and then turned her out of doors. It was in this condition Dame Crotchet returned home, where she waited till the maid came down to open the house, being afraid to knock at
the

the door for the reasons before-mentioned of Miss Sedgwick. The maid no sooner beheld her, than she gave a shriek, and fell backwards, thinking it was a ghost; Mrs. Crotchet, however, soon convinced her of her mistake, when she very kindly assisted her with some soap and warm water, which once more brought this strangely unfortunate woman to her original situation.

As soon as she had properly cleaned and dressed herself, she went up to Miss Sedgwick, who received her with tears of joy, being much rejoiced to find her nurse and companion had returned

turned safe, after all the fears and horrors of the night.

This affair, however, next day made a great noise ; and the inhuman fathers and relations of the young men, instead of horse-whipping their ill-disciplined sons, as they ought to have done, began to consider Miss Sedgwick in a new light, as an impostor, and a pretender to virtue, in order to draw one of their booby heirs into matrimony, or at least a settlement ; — upon which account they met the next day, and over a tankard of foggy ale, decreed Miss Sedgwick should leave the company, or the company the town ; accordingly

cordingly orders were sent ; she returned an answer, that she was too ill to move, but would nevertheless obey their orders the next morning ; — she then acquainted Mr. Stormwell and the rest of the troop with her new received instructions, and promised to meet them at the next town, or indeed go with them, as she should only go to a village three or four miles off. — She entreated them to continue her small share, as she was entirely helpless, having already pledged most of her necessaries for her board, and for the support of her little journey.—Mr. Stormwell, who gave us a proof of his humanity and generosity
at

at the inn, immediately redeemed her things, and presented them to her, with what little money he had, and also ordered Mrs. Stormwell, who knew a farmer of that place she was going to, to see her safe there, and promised to send a horse in the afternoon, for her time enough to play ; — this matter was soon settled ; they wept and parted ; — Mrs. Crotchet promised to attend in the morning at the village, as she was to play that night the part of Mrs. Day in the Committee.

Miss Sedgwick was placed at the farmer's (an honest agreeable family) for the recovery of
her

her health, as Mrs. Stormwell called it ;—they were but poor —yet they wanted for nothing ; content, health, and peace of mind, beamed with continual sunshine on their cottage ;— and though they were poor, how often has the poorer than themselves held up their hands and blest them ! — Religion cheered their breasts with distant gleams of more continued happiness ; ——— and, to heighten their felicity here, content of mind made every little accidental good they received, seem as a peculiar blessing ; — sleep endowed their nights with ease, the meed of chearful toil and industry ;—a simple plenty crowned

crowned their frugal board, and appetite, elicited by health, made each repast luxurious; — they had tasted sorrow, and survived it! — Near the door ran a brook where the hoarse-current chafed the fiery breast of the pebble; — it was partly covered with trees, where a rustic seat often in the summer-season received the hospitable pair on the verdant bank, who oft re-told the long-past tales of youth and jollity.

Miss Sedgwick oft retired to this pleasant spot to indulge a pleasing melancholy, and divert her mind. — Opposite to the walk stood the habitation of the humble

humble curate ; the rector was chaplain to a lord, who would not leave his patron's table to instruct the unlettered sons of a rude uncultivated village ;—venison and port, claret and politics, had their peculiar charms ; then the hopes of rising to dignity in the church by an acquaintance with the great, was to him a more indulgent vision, than the more distant expectation of rising in a future state to the favour of his God ;—but to pass him by unnoticed as an undeserved being, and return to a better object. The curate, more worthy in his poverty than the priest in his protections, whose heart had been habituated

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ed to every tender feeling, could not help observing the settled concern that appeared in Miss Sedgwick's countenance; he wished, he knew not why, for an opportunity of speaking to her;—he told his wife the concern she filled him with;—they had frequent conferences together on the subject; in one of which he took an opportunity to tell her, he was informed “ she was a player in the borough, where she behaved “ ill; in consequence of which “ she was very little noticed; “ but what of that,” said this humane clergyman, “ if she has “ erred she is penitent;—pray “ wife invite her to tea; take “ no

“ no refusal ; — methinks it is
 “ both to your peace and mine
 “ that I should speak to her ; a
 “ secret impulse beats upon my
 “ heart, and nature seems to say,
 “ I must speak to her ; — we
 “ are old, therefore no hurt can
 “ attend our characters by con-
 “ versing with her ; — and our
 “ advice may save the poor un-
 “ happy young person from de-
 “ struction.”

Mrs. Goodwill, (for that was
 their name) whose first joy was
 to oblige him, flew that instant
 to the farmer's, where, after
 many excuses, Miss Sedgwick
 at last complied, and went with
 Mrs. Goodwill home, who con-
 ducted

ducted her to a little neat parlour, here and there littered with books, most of which were orthodox ; — magazines and newspapers also lay to tell the mighty annals of the British empire, intermixed with satirical and home advances at those guilty breasts, who, having already sold their consciences and honour for advancement, read their own infamy with a malicious grin, curse the liberty of the press, and wish every editor of the public prints in the pillory ; — but let me pass them by, as unworthy notice ; — heaven will punish what man cannot controul. — Mrs. Goodwill and Miss Sedgwick were

were now chatting very familiarly about indifferent matters, and had drank each a glass of mead, when Mr. Goodwill came in; his breeches being rather shabby, he had been up stairs to put on his cassock to hide the defects of his poverty; he saluted Miss Sedgwick, and seemed greatly pleased with her sense, politeness, and affability; —amongst other things he said,

“ I had a daughter that died
 “ in London of the small-pox,
 “ who bore a great resemblance
 “ to you; but why should I
 “ call to mind that extreme
 “ poverty which was her destruction;—her brother, dear
 “ to us all, by wrong conduct

“ was forced abroad;—he was
 “ expelled the university, at
 “ which place I had nearly spent
 “ my little all to keep him, by
 “ going off with a young lady,
 “ daughter to a clergyman lately
 “ dead, who was of small for-
 “ tune, and who left him lit-
 “ tle or no dependence but
 “ (scanty pittance) on a step-
 “ mother, who would not deign
 “ to look on her after the error
 “ she had committed,—being
 “ glad to make that pitiful ex-
 “ cuse as a reason for leaving
 “ her to a merciless world. —
 “ Whether she went off with
 “ George, or remained, I know
 “ not; — his debts forced him
 “ abroad; — and as he has an
 “ uncle

“ uncle at Amsterdam, I sup-
 “ pose he went to him;—but he
 “ is a worldly-minded man, and
 “ I fear he will do but little for
 “ him;—neither me nor mine
 “ have yet been worth his no-
 “ tice, though he might have
 “ assisted us without any ap-
 “ parent diminution of his
 “ wealth; but God’s will be
 “ done; I am content.”—“ An
 “ uncle, Sir, said you at Am-
 “ sterdam!—his name!—and
 “ if I deceived —— oh! Sir,
 “ — forgive me — this is the
 “ strangest story — it overpow-
 “ ers me—my very senses are
 “ affected—pardon me, Sir—I
 “ blush to appear thus before
 “ you — I fear—I fear—I am

“ more interested in this affair “
 “ than you—and that she that “
 “ grasps the tender father’s “
 “ hand, is the betrayer of his “
 “ child---the cause of all these “
 “ fatal accidents, which have ar “
 “ destroyed the peace of a great de “
 “ mind and noble heart like ho “
 “ your’s!---Oh ! Sir, forgive-- fe “
 “ forgive---and let me fly your no “
 “ fight --- I cannot even bear vo “
 “ my own upbraidings ; how th “
 “ then can I bear the affliction M “
 “ and resentment of the best co “
 “ parents in the world in ad- th “
 “ dition to them ! How can I “ “
 “ support the reflection of the “ “
 “ ruin I have occasioned ?---Or “ “
 “ how can you, Sir, humane “ “
 “ and generous as you are, bear “ “
 “ such

“ such an offensive object in
 “ your sight---oh! Sir! oh!
 “ madam! I dare not look.”

Mr. Goodwill raised her; ---
 and Mrs. Goodwill, whose tender feelings would have done honour to the noblest age, kissed off the falling tear, but could not speak, though she endeavoured all she could to say something which might alleviate Miss Sedgwick's anxiety; ---nor could Mr. Goodwill utter more than, “ my dear George! my
 “ poor child! where is he now?
 “ ---Ah! why no longer can
 “ a parent's arms embrace
 “ him.”--- “ Yes, Sir, (replied
 “ Miss Sedgwick) it is but just

“ you should reproach me, I
 “ am the cause of all his mis-
 “ fortunes, the occasion of all
 “ your woes ; I do not, sweet
 “ amiable creature, (he replied)
 “ I do not reproach, I pity you ;
 “ ---if you loved my boy, you
 “ cannot be insensible of a fa-
 “ ther’s feelings for his loss---
 “ his poor mother, too --- Mrs.
 “ Goodwill do not weep---you
 “ affect me too much ! --- thou
 “ best of women be comfort-
 “ ed ; --- we yet may see---be-
 “ neath this oft frequented roof,
 “ whilst infant innocence kept
 “ him from those errors from
 “ which maturer reason could
 “ not defend him---but let me
 “ ask one question---are you his
 “ wife,

“ wife, or, I dread to ask, are
 “ you not?---may I carefs thee
 “ as the child of my bosom---
 “ the wedded wife of my dar-
 “ ling fon! --- or, must I still
 “ regret his crime --- and pity
 “ your misfortunes?” “ Sir,
 “ (replied Miss Sedgwick) you
 “ shall know all --- but first I
 “ will appease your anxiety, by
 “ informing you that I am his
 “ wife;---but yet I cannot boast
 “ so strict an honour as I am
 “ convinced an alliance to you
 “ or your’s deserved;---but no-
 “ thing shall be concealed——
 “ his frequent visits, when
 “ at the university, prevailed
 “ on my unpractised heart
 “ to give that virtue to his

“ trust, no woman in her re-
 “ flective hours ought ever to
 “ part with; --- but love was
 “ then my bane and my ambi-
 “ tion. Yet in that point am
 “ I truly happy ;---he staid, af-
 “ ter he was expelled, a month
 “ with me in London ; ———
 “ where, after having been
 “ regularly asked at church, he
 “ married me ;---our love now
 “ increas'd with our poverty---
 “ till at length, unable to sup-
 “ port the bitter hours of chid-
 “ ing want, he left me with a
 “ promise of writing soon ; ---
 “ if he lived, he was obliged to
 “ own me for his wife --- if he
 “ died, he begged I would ne-
 “ ver reveal the secret to
 “ his

“ his family ; --- he said this
 “ stroke would be fatal to their
 “ peace---as it was in hopes of
 “ his advancement, they sur-
 “ vived through many a storm
 “ of life, to wait the slow return
 “ of happier hours, and yet
 “ more chearful days ; ——he
 “ thought, if you was con-
 “ vinced he was married to a
 “ woman of no fortune,---the
 “ additional scenes of poverty
 “ and distress it must occasion
 “ would break their hearts ;—
 “ and more ; to prevent my
 “ making the least proper en-
 “ quiry, he told me his name
 “ was Hopkins, and that he
 “ would some time or other
 “ clear the mistake to me of

“ taking up that of Goodwill :
 “ to tell all our joys and misfe-
 “ ries, blended as they were
 “ from our last meeting to the
 “ dreadful hour of parting,
 “ would only be to rouse fresh
 “ ideas on your minds, already
 “ too much affected at the fond
 “ tale of an unhappy miserable
 “ object ; --- we parted,---fatal
 “ moment ! --- I fear for ever !
 “ --- the sequel you know as
 “ much of as myself ! ——Six
 “ months are gone without the
 “ least intimation where he is
 “ ---I fear the worst---forgive
 “ me, Sir --- if I am honoured
 “ as poor your adopted child---I
 “ ought to try to comfort, not
 “ to wound ; the ever tender,
 “ ever

“ ever charitable breast, of my
 “ dearest benefactors.”---A rud-
 dy girl at this instant brought in
 the apparatus for tea, which re-
 lieved them all, and called forth
 that resolution they wanted,
 whilst yet no eye observed the
 tender feeling of their hearts, or
 their love-instructed intercourse
 of sorrow. They took their
 chairs, and Dolly seemed rejoiced
 to find the hot cakes her hands
 had prepared, were well re-
 ceived by her master and mis-
 tress, whose continued kindness
 to her was what she had in no
 place experienced before.---But
 to be short in my story ; as I
 promised not to dwell on any
 particular subject, lest that sub-

ject should grow tedious, Miss Sedgwick continued here for the space of nine months longer, without the least intimation from her husband ; --- Mr. and Mrs. Goodwill loved her as their child --- and a proper provision for her future life, was all that was wanting to make them now all as happy, as the loss of a son and husband could make each party. — Continued good-nature made every day appear a little festival ; — while affability sweetened every sentence.

But I should have told you that the players had left the town, tho' not without coming over to the village to pay their respects to
young

young Mrs. Goodwill, and to take a proper leave; Mrs. Crotchet staid a month behind them, and then followed the troop, — and after having received fresh assurances from Miss Sedgwick, of a better provision as soon as it could be procured for her.

Miss Sedgwick seemed now quite happy in her little retirement, without once regretting the loss of a more public, as well as a more polished world. — And looking now on her husband as amongst the irrevocable regions of death, “from whose bourne no traveller returns;” the violence of her grief had softened into a gentle melancholy,

ly, to reflection, which now and then, when his once-loved idea played upon her mind, would break out in silent tears.

Now, drest in the airy robe of memory, her visits were daily, but chiefly to the poor, whose homely wants in illness and oppression, little as they had to give, were instantly supplied; they could bless the bounty of an omnipotent God, that they had something to bestow to dry the eye that sorrow affliction had made dim — and to relieve the heart seized by the cold hand of anxiety. — When they had nothing more to give, their kind advice and well-disposed humanity,

nity, gave hope and pleasure to those hearts, where time, and numberless good offices had taught them to respect their words as those of peace and comfort. — Not even Mahomet was esteemed a greater prophet among his folly-guided host, than was this worthy priest amongst the rustic circle of his few parishioners.

But I hope the reader will not think me long; as to paint the various graces of humanity and goodness, although in an humble state, can never be an ungrateful subject to the ear of virtuous sensibility; indeed, the overflowings of the human heart
are

are great and noble, known but to few, and practised yet by less;—it is not yet to be described;—it is (what I have often heard Mr. Goodwill say) is a look into futurity—an anticipation of future felicity—and, whilst a tender sympathy to the misfortunes of others wounds the bleeding heart, how greatly it exalts the man !

But lest the reader should be impatient for the sequel of my history, I will here cut short the digression I was entering to, and conclude this long chapter.

C H A P. IX.

Various Accidents produce various Descriptions; --- Which that I may not anticipate, I will not sum up the Heads, but let the Reader peruse the whole unnoticed.

ABOUT the sixteenth of June, a letter arrived with an account of the death of the mother-in-law of young Mrs. Goodwill, who, out of concern for her former cruelty, and, like many others, to do something with a view to merit heaven on her death-bed, had left her two hundred pounds. This news was doubtless received with great pleasure, as well as the money, which

which was at this time a little fortune to this truly œconomical and industrious little family.

It was now whispered thro' the parish, that the curate and his family grew rich, they having now bought a cow of their own—and had supplied the pigstye with inhabitants it was originally designed for—to true œconomy every little addition of circumstance is felt, and causes a grateful sufficiency to wear the face of plenty and profusion; for what would appear thrift to the extravagant and unwary, is, to the votaries of œconomy, ease, affluence, and prosperity.

June

June went over as the former months, without receiving any account from young Mr. Goodwill; however, on the third of July following, a letter was received by the curate, intimating, that a stranger would arrive like the dove in the ark, and bear the olive, the ever-grateful olive in his mouth. This prophecy alarmed the whole family, and threw them into the greatest consternation; which with the expectancy of what was to happen, sat with a kind of horror on the mind, which was however relieved by the ever grateful son of hope.

At

At eleven o'clock at night, when all the family were preparing for bed, the latch of the street-door was heard to move several times, but very gently, as if it seemed unwilling to give too great an alarm. --- The curate turning pale with fear, said the house was beset, and bid the maid bring the old iron tinder-box, which snapt like a pistol, and that he would stand in the passage to make the thief believe he had fire-arms in his house; which was far from being the case, the good priest having never fired but one gun off in his whole life, and that was at a rabbit, when he him-
self

self dropt down at the same time, not being certain which end of the gun the effusion was from; and it is also asserted, that if he ever was guilty of an uncleanly action, it was then, and then only; and that indeed proceeded in part from a good digestion, and in part from the terrors of the imagination. The noise, however, continued, when Betty, the maid, who was enraged at being kept out of bed, where she might comfortably dream of her sweetheart for at least nine hours together, bethought of another expedient, which was no other than this; — she ran into the garret and opened the window, when she perceived by the light of

of a very feeble young moon,
 a man with his hand at the latch
 of the street-door; ---now's the
 time, quoth Betty to herself;
 and out the unmerciful jade
 pours a full vase of chamber-
 lee upon the supposed delin-
 quent's head, who now roared
 out as loud as he could, " I am
 " ruined ! an undone man ! —
 " my grizzle-wig, and best blue
 " grey coat and black waistcoat
 " will never be fitten to be worn
 " again by a Christian parish-
 " clerk ! --- why Betty, where
 " is measter ? --- dost not know
 " me --- not know poor old Jo-
 " nathan ! --- ah ! heavens save
 " me ! --- I heard a pistol crack
 " in the entry --- I shall be kill-
 " ed !

" ed!---meafter---have marcy!
 " ---it is only I ! — poor Jona-
 " than, the parish-clerk ; who
 " never knew how to wrong
 " man, woman, or child in my
 " born days --- except when I
 " snip off a small remnant from
 " my customers, by way of toll;
 " hard times, meafter ! and
 " what can a poor taylor do
 " with fix-pence a day, to keep
 " a wife with ten little babies ;
 " besides, Sufan drinks tea into
 " the bargain ! ---why meafter,
 " good now open the door ;---I
 " dare not go home till I have
 " discoursed with you---it is as
 " much as my life and all my
 " five senses are worth."

The

The mistake being perceiv- a g
ed, the good priest lays down kar
his pistol, tinder-box, and Jo ---
nathan is ordered to be admit cou
ted, and dried by a good fire in
which, with a full pint of hali nat
day-ale, warmed with brown to
fugar and ginger, is applied with on
succefs. “
“

Mrs. Goodwill, after her good “
offices were over, went up stairs “
to comfort her daughter-in-law, “
whose fpirits, being but weak, “
was a good deal frightened at “
this fupposed thief and unfea- “
fonable vifitant. “
“

Let us now imagine the cu- “
rate and Jonathan fat down by “
a good

a good fire, with a fresh tankard of fine home-brewed ale.
 ---Betty, who thought there could be no secret without love in the affair, and thinking Jonathan had brought fresh bans to publish, listened for a while on the stair-case.---“Jonathan,
 “ (says the priest) why did not
 “ you speak with a loud voice
 “ when you was at my street-
 “ door, and then these little
 “ misfortunes could never have
 “ happened!—Come, be cheerful man; --- never mind an
 “ old wig;---I had one I could
 “ have given thee, but these
 “ country-fellows borrowed it
 “ for bishop Blaze, to wear in
 “ procession on the Wake-Mon-
 VOL. II. E “ day

“ day---and I wish I may ever
 “ get it again, for that might
 “ repair” --- “ Ah! Sir! (re-
 “ plies the clerk) you will ne-
 “ ver see it again, for, as I came
 “ through neighbour Bean-
 “ feild’s five acres of oats last
 “ night, I saw it tied to a stick,
 “ where it now hangs for a
 “ scare-crow——it made my
 “ bowels yearn when I saw it;
 “ --- I have known it these
 “ thirteen years at least;---and
 “ old friends, you know, measter,
 “ claim the watery eye, as I may
 “ say, if ever so mean.——I
 “ would have released it; but
 “ possession being nine parts
 “ of the law, I even left it to
 “ the last claimant, to die, like
 “ many

“ many more, with old age and
 “ misfortunes !” “ Ay ! many
 “ a christening and good time
 “ have I worn it, Jonathan ;
 “ it has been at many an ho-
 “ nest man’s table !” --- “ Yes,
 “ Sir ; I have not stood at your
 “ back so often, but I must be
 “ well acquainted with it ; ---
 “ poor soul ! well, well, we all
 “ must part, Sir !” --- “ father
 “ and son, Jonathan !” ———
 “ husband and wife, Sir !” ---
 “ grandfather, and great grand-
 “ father, Jonathan !” — “ first
 “ cousin and second cousin, Sir !
 “ ay ! we are all pilgrims and
 “ wanderers upon earth !” ---
 “ True, Jonathan ; and happy
 “ is he, that---a moving sub-

“ject, Jonathan ; it makes my
 “eyes water!” --- “And I am
 “sure, Sir, if you cry, I can
 “follow you, for I always was
 “soft and tender-hearted from
 “a chicken.”

Here followed a weeping scene,
 which may be better felt than de-
 scribed;--when the due obsequies
 were regularly paid to the re-
 memberance of the poor old wig,
 the curate took up the tankard (a
 great soother of affliction) with,
 “Jonathan, my hearty service
 “to you.”---“Sir, your love is
 “sufficient for a poor man like
 “me;”--- here a deep sigh es-
 caped from the clerk, which he
 immediately washed down with
 his

his humble service to the priest.

“ What’s the matter, Jonathan?” (says the priest) “ Ah!
 “ Sir, (says he) I am forely
 “ troubled in mind!”---“What,
 “ have you any doubts about
 “ religion, man?” “ Oh! no,
 “ Sir; I have no doubts about
 “ that; for I never think of it
 “ at all, but when I am at
 “ church;--and then you know
 “ I am forced to it; --- so that
 “ does not hurt me, --- but I
 “ most sartainly thinks---pray,
 “ Sir, can I see a ghoft!”——
 “ Why, I do not absolutely pre-
 “ tend to say, Jonathan, but that
 “ fuch a thing may appear;---

“ then it must be as a messen-
 “ ger from heaven to man,
 “ which is of the greatest con-
 “ sequence ; — not as a Will o’
 “ the Whisp, --- a goblin, --- a
 “ bugbear, --- to fright children
 “ with.”

“ The ways of the Eternal
 “ Being are past our mere fi-
 “ nite apprehension it is true;
 “ ---we see continued tracks of
 “ glory in every path we trace
 “ through his great works;
 “ and yet we find not light
 “ enough to guide our weak
 “ reason through the vain search
 “ into eternal causes ; --- our in-
 “ tellects want both strength
 “ and refinement ; — man can-
 “ not

“ not enter into more than the
 “ common knowledge of his
 “ kind;---and if, now and then,
 “ a more than common ge-
 “ nius darts a ray, it is but like a
 “ comet; —it astonishes at first;
 “ it blazes with new know-
 “ ledge;--and after it has shone
 “ it's time, we become self-
 “ convinced, that this our own
 “ reason might have puzzled
 “ out from the intricate walks
 “ of instructive knowledge;---
 “ the new regulator of our
 “ reason ceases to become a
 “ wonder;—and we barely but
 “ approve, what of late created
 “ our astonishment;—in short,
 “ Jonathan, most of our moral
 “ writers, in treating of the

“ great arcana of nature, either
 “ wade out of their depths
 “ entirely, or, like mere school-
 “ boys, only dabble in the
 “ stream.”

“ Indeed, Sir, replies Jonathan,
 “ you talk very fine, but to
 “ be sure it is all Greek to me;
 “ — I do not understand one
 “ word of it; — so, Sir, my
 “ humble service to you. —
 “ Well; but Jonathan, hold!
 “ let me touch the tankard;
 “ what would you enquire into
 “ — the reality of a spirit?”
 “ Yes, Sir; if so be as how,
 “ such a thing may come in-
 “ deed, and truly;---I remem-
 “ ber to have heard what di-
 “ vers

“ vers people have said, that
 “ they have seen Black Bill, of
 “ Brampton, who hanged him-
 “ self for little Sue of Blith-
 “ Green ; — nay, some people
 “ do not scruple to say, that
 “ our young esquire, Foolacre,
 “ who lost his estate by gam-
 “ ing, was most cruelly haunt-
 “ ed, before he sold his fine
 “ old mansion to a London
 “ builder, to pay a card-debt of
 “ eight thousand guineas ; —
 “ they say, moreover, that old
 “ esquire ———, good old
 “ madam ———, and two of
 “ his maiden aunts, who died
 “ for love at threescore, had
 “ used to walk in the long gal-
 “ lery, where the doors of all

“ the rooms flew open, which
 “ they used to look into with
 “ such groans, that the like
 “ was never known before—
 “ then, Sir, you know there
 “ was old Gaffer Fire-Drake,
 “ he and his old mare were
 “ both frightened into a gra-
 “ vel-pit by the appearance of,
 “ dear heaven blefs us ! a wo-
 “ man without a head ! Be-
 “ sides, Sir, I have heard old
 “ Goody Blue Jacket fwear,
 “ when ſhe has been out of
 “ nights on fundry occasions,
 “ that ſhe has ſeen ſpirits in
 “ the air, of divers ſhapes, as
 “ thick as flies in a ſummer’s
 “ evening.” — “ Pſhaw ! pri-
 “ thee Jonathan have done with
 “ thy

“ thy instances ; — you first of
 “ all ask me of the probability
 “ of the thing, and then pre-
 “ tend to give me ocular proofs
 “ thyself ; — though I know
 “ not why I should chide thee,
 “ when even people of my or-
 “ der, and several of very dis-
 “ tinguished abilities too, have
 “ watched that ridiculous affair
 “ Fanny Fantom’s ghost for a
 “ whole evening, and helped
 “ to immortalize the haunted
 “ regions of Cock-lane amongst
 “ the simple annals of British
 “ credulity ! — You remember
 “ that affair, I suppose, Jona-
 “ than ? ” — “ O yes, Sir, I remem-
 “ ber it perfectly well ; at that
 “ time I used to prufe the newf-
 E 6 papers

“ papers about it ; — dear blefs
 “ us—how my hair has stood
 “ straight upright ; — and ex-
 “ cept that my wife had not
 “ gone to bed at the same time,
 “ I durst not no more have
 “ gone by myself, than I could
 “ now go into our belfry by
 “ midnight !” — “ Why, thou
 “ hast a stout heart, Jonathan,
 “ (replied the priest) but pray
 “ now, what does all this mean ?
 “ what hast thou seen, Jona-
 “ than ? explain, man ?” —
 “ Why, Sir, (says he, trem-
 “ bling) does not the candle
 “ burn a little blueish ? I have
 “ seen poor master George cross
 “ the green about an hour a-
 “ gon, in such a murrain hurry,
 “ as

“ as he used to do in his merry
 “ freaks ; — pray, Sir, excuse
 “ me ; I cannot help telling it ;
 “ — it lies upon my consci-
 “ ence.”

“ Why, hark’ee, Jonathan,
 “ (replied the priest) it does
 “ not lie upon my faith in the
 “ least ;—poor George is either
 “ alive and merry, or dead to
 “ us in this world, I warrant
 “ him. — Well, well, do not
 “ talk of him ; these tears, Jo-
 “ nathan, speak the father, tho’
 “ indeed I must confess I am
 “ tender-hearted on all occa-
 “ sions : but we should be so,
 “ or how else should we pity the
 “ misfortunes of others ?” —
 “ Pray,

“ Pray, Sir, interrupts Jona-
 “ than, do not take on upon
 “ it;—I only said, I believed it
 “ was true, whilst you thought
 “ it was proper; but now, Sir,
 “ I believe I was in a dream
 “ only. — But pray Sir, now I
 “ think of it, did John Pladdon
 “ send the tythe-pig last night?”
 “ Yes, yes, Jonathan, he sent
 “ it; he was as good as his
 “ word for once;” “ ay, and a
 “ brave one it was measter, for
 “ all it comes of such a cross-
 “ grained methodist-breed; —
 “ pish on um, I say, they would
 “ have sold one at market if
 “ they could, and have sworn
 “ the poor old beast had but
 “ six in a litter; — O! consci-
 “ ence!

“ence! conscience! and as for
 “eggs, why, there’s not one to
 “be found; — egad, the good
 “man, as they call him, swal-
 “lows down two dozen in a
 “morning to whet his whistle,
 “in order to get strength of
 “lungs sufficient to raise a pi-
 “ous mob in the afternoon,
 “at the town three miles off,
 “where he preaches at the
 “back of a hog-sty.—Why,
 “do you know, Sir, that he
 “had the impudence to kiss
 “my daughter Nan, and then
 “offered to put his hands where
 “shame makes me silent.”—
 “He’s a very bad man, Jona-
 “than; keep him out of your
 “doors.”—“Why, that is just
 “what

“ what I says to my wife;— why,
 “ love, says I to her, for you know
 “ she’s a mortal passionate wo-
 “ man, and so I always call her
 “ love, being as how I like to
 “ mollify her, Sir ; —so says I
 “ unto her, do you think, my
 “ love, says I, I that am a Chris-
 “ tian parish-clerk and his wife,
 “ and so sober a couple as we
 “ be, should entertain a mis-
 “ creant methodist parson ? —
 “ Fy, fy ; what would our good
 “ master, the curate, say, if he
 “ knew it, that is, meaning
 “ you, Sir ; — why, Jonathan,
 “ says she, (pretty and mild,
 “ Sir) he says the curate, and
 “ all of us are poor straying
 “ souls, and that we shall all
 “ be

“ be damn’d together ; — and
 “ will also give me the cause
 “ of the great sinfulness of sin.”
 — “ Hark’ee, wife, (says I to
 “ her) do not believe him ; do
 “ not put any conference in
 “ him ; and the next time you
 “ see him, tell him he’s a
 “ d——d rascal for his pains ;”
 — “ well, but you swear, Jona-
 “ than, why (says the parson)
 “ I could not help it, Sir ; I
 “ was in so great a passion to
 “ hear such a parcel of dogs
 “ laten ; now, Sir, mind how
 “ it comes about ; — you must
 “ know, Sir, our neighbour,
 “ farmer Fallowfield’s wife, ne-
 “ ver had a child of thirteen
 “ years, till she went to these
 “ mis-

“ miscreants, Sir ; and so, Sir,
 “ somehow or other, she turn-
 “ ed out a brace of fine babies
 “ before the year was out ; —
 “ and this it is, Sir, that has
 “ made more women turn to
 “ him than you can imagine ;
 “ ——for they look upon *in-*
 “ *crease and multiply* to be the
 “ first commands of heaven,
 “ because they like it them-
 “ selves.—Now, my wife, who
 “ is a flighty woman, you know,
 “ Sir, and no more than seven
 “ and fixty last grafs ;—let me
 “ see, we buried a son, I think
 “ about nine years ago ; ——
 “ ever since which time she
 “ has made such a bustle about
 “ repairing her loss by getting
 “ ano-

“ another, that I have had,
 “ (though I am ashamed to
 “ speak it) very little comfort
 “ of my life, Sir ;—for, let me
 “ strive as I will, I am turned
 “ of fifty, and cannot do as I
 “ could, if I was to try never
 “ so much ;—besides, we have
 “ four sons and five fine daugh-
 “ ters living already, which I
 “ thought was family enough
 “ for a poor man, whilst they
 “ were young, Sir ;—and now,
 “ heaven give them grace ; if
 “ Sue would but be quiet, why
 “ we might enjoy ourselves,
 “ and keep a cow and pig of
 “ our own —— but it almost
 “ breaks my heart to think as
 “ how that she should be so
 “ vartu-

“ vartuously given till now, and
 “ be in danger of falling a prey
 “ to a wolf in sheep’s clothing;
 “ excuse me, Sir, I cannot help
 “ weeping.”

“ Nay, but Jonathan, do not
 “ take on, thy wife will think
 “ better of it, man ; come touch
 “ the tankard, Jonathan ; — I
 “ will put a spice of matrimo-
 “ nial advice in my next Sun-
 “ day’s discourse, by way of
 “ admonition ; and, if she will
 “ but take the thing in a pro-
 “ per light, it may be of ser-
 “ vice to her.” “ Ah ! Sir,
 “ (returns Jonathan) I am a-
 “ fraid she does take the thing
 “ as it is ; — proper or impro-
 “ per,

“ per, I am not bound to say ;
“ — but I am sartainly much
“ troubled about it ;—here the
“ walls in my house and shop
“ had used to be covered with
“ merry ballads and pleasant
“ histories, Sir ; me and my
“ two sons, and Gabrel the
“ ’prentice, had used to sing or
“ whistle them over from morn
“ till night, by way of pastime
“ as we sat at work, and we used
“ all to be as frisky as grigs ;
“ but now, Sir, since she has
“ got acquainted with these
“ miscreants (grant me pati-
“ ence, I pray heaven) all my
“ songs are torn down, as in-
“ struments of Satan, and an
“ abomination to the flesh ; and
“ in

“ in their stead is pasted up—
 “ Whitefield’s Last Legacy ; —
 “ Pious Breathings ; — White-
 “ field’s Travels into divers
 “ parts ; ——— the Soul white-
 “ washed upon Earth ; — Re-
 “ generation openly required ;
 “ —one Step to the Taberna-
 “ cle ; — and a pious Shove to
 “ the heavy-ars’d Christian.”---
 “ Why, then, Jonathan, if that
 “ is the case, thou hast some
 “ cause to fear ;—but hark’ee !
 “ — I will talk to thy wife ;
 “ I will call on her to-morrow ;
 “ — what, thy wife will hear
 “ reason I warrant thee ; — I
 “ wonder our bi——ps do not
 “ petition the parliament about
 “ it ; — we shall certainly lose
 “ our

“ our flock entirely if they do
“ not ;—but why should I won-
“ der ?—they do not know that
“ one part of us is starving
“ whilst the other is surfeiting
“ in luxury ; nay, in many
“ towns, a poor curate, or a jour-
“ neyman parson and a cuckold,
“ are equally ridiculous ; wit-
“ nefs the contempt and ill
“ treatment poor parson Adams
“ met with in his travels ; who,
“ between friends, Jonathan,
“ was as honest and well-mean-
“ ing a man, (though I say it
“ myself) as I am ; together
“ with several others whom I
“ now cannot recollect, to the
“ great disgrace and indignity
“ of the cloth ; but life is short,
“ and

“ and we must be contented,
 “ Jonathan.”

“ Ay! Sir (answered the
 “ clerk) I never respected one
 “ part of our protestant mem-
 “ bers ever since the Jew bill
 “ was past; — I declare it al-
 “ most turned my head for a
 “ time, to think how it came
 “ about; — for, says I to Sue,
 “ if so be it should happen to
 “ continue so, it is fifty to one
 “ but they erect a new Jerusa-
 “ lem on the ruins of London,
 “ and turn Saint Paul’s into a
 “ synagogue—but, heaven be
 “ praised, the storm blew loud
 “ enough to waken our seven
 “ sleepers into their seven senses
 “ — and

“ — and so the good old king
 “ repealed it.”

“ Well, Jonathan, let us but
 “ go in the right way ourselves,
 “ we may then look down with
 “ an eye of pity and concern
 “ on those, whose superior sta-
 “ tions call in vain for superior
 “ perfections ; and, whilst the
 “ great and rich man is con-
 “ fining his thoughts to the
 “ sale of kingdoms, or to
 “ the embellishment of a villa,
 “ let ours soar beyond the reach
 “ of human concern, on the
 “ wings of hope, and greatly
 “ daring, launch into eternity !
 “ tread with bold step the ever-
 “ lasting plains ; and worship
 VOL. II. F “ only

“ only that God, whose power
 “ is absolute and boundless as
 “ his nature; — and whilst o-
 “ thers sell their souls and ho-
 “ nour, and every thing that
 “ is dear to them, to a venal
 “ statesman for a paltry bribe,
 “ let us devote our future hours
 “ of this transitory life to gain
 “ a place in that celestial court,
 “ where the sun always shines;
 “ where peace is everlasting;
 “ and where virtue, clad in
 “ poverty, shall claim prece-
 “ dence of exalted vice;—then
 “ shall the tear cease to flow,
 “ the voice to groan, or the
 “ heart to heave with anguish;
 “ —comfort shall then bright-
 “ en the pale visage of deject-
 “ ed

“ ed sorrow ; and that comfort
 “ shall be eternal.”

While the good man was going on at this rate, Jonathan began to snore, when Mr. Goodwill finding the effect his discourse or his ale, (we cannot say which) had on him, thought it necessary to rouse and inform him it was growing late ; he then told him to take comfort, and be of good cheer, and that all would turn out for the best ; to which, Jonathan, being now perfectly dry, nodded assent. They then wished each other good night, and retired, Jonathan homewards, and the par-

son to his rest; where, if the reader pleases, we will leave them till morning, which shall begin the next chapter.

C H A P.

C H A P. X.

Contains the usual Ceremonies of getting up in the Morning to Breakfast; --- young Mrs. Goodwill in low Spirits; --- the unfortunate Accident of the Parson's best Beaver, which ends in the Preservation of the Kittens; --- the Consternation occasioned by the Arrival of Esquire Lumber's Coach; --- young Mrs. Goodwill all that is amiable in Woman; --- the Embellishment of Man, exemplified in a Rose, a Daffodowndilly, a Sprig of Thyme, and some Marjoram; --- a Coach as easy as a Pulpit; ---- an Observation on Nabobs, spendthrift Heirs, and Robbers; --- which, with many other Particulars, make this Chapter truly interesting.

TEN o'clock; all the family having breakfasted, and young Mrs. Goodwill in very

low spirits, the doctor and his wife do all they can to comfort her, in vain. — A very unfortunate accident now happened through the great neglect of the maid, who had brushed the doctor's beaver, and laid it to sweeten in the garden, where she left it all night, when the cat very obligingly made a bed of it, and brought forth nine fine kittens in the crown of it, by the side of a gooseberry-bush. The doctor, who was an early man, chancing to walk in that part of the garden, which led to the temple, observed it in this condition, and immediately came to complain of it; — “see this careless girl, cries
“ the

“ the priest, my best hat, which
 “ was bought for the last visi-
 “ tation, is entirely spoilt.” —
 Mrs. Goodwill repaired imme-
 diately with him to the fatal
 spot, where he was going to sa-
 crifice them; when she said,—
 “ but do not hurt the kittens,
 “ Mr. Goodwill; consider the
 “ little helpless animals!” —
 “ Nay, my dear life, (says he)
 “ what can I do in this affair?
 “ — I do pity the poor crea-
 “ tures—.” “ Nay, but Sam-
 “ my, my dear, reflect, it is
 “ Betty’s fault, not theirs!—
 “ and as to the kittens, they
 “ will turn out excellent mou-
 “ fers!”—Well, but you would
 “ not keep all, love? No, Sam-

“ my, my dear, only two to
 “ guard my dairy ; — we will
 “ give the rest away ; — but if
 “ you drown them, let me be
 “ got into the house first.”

The reader will here see, that
 a truly compassionate mind
 shews itself in every particular.
 — A good man, as Mr. Good-
 will often observed, (out of the
 bible, I suppose) — is merciful
 to his horse.

Eleven o'clock being come,
 esquire Lumber's old coach came
 to the door, which caused a
 great consternation in the fami-
 ly, who all run different ways ;
 nay, even Betty claps on a pair
 of

of clean sleeves in the pantry, before she waits upon Mr. Jarvis the coachman, and John Trott the footman; — in the mean time the good priest, having first made himself decent, conveys his servants into the house, and begs to know their errand; whether the civility of the visit was a mark of respect from them, or their master; and why the coach came empty? When, being assured it was sent to fetch him and his family to Lumber-Hall, and that they had most particular orders to take no refusal, (and it being a civility that was never shewn to them before) it greatly surprized the little community of this late

peaceful mansion ; — however,
 the priest desired they would
 get ready as soon as possible;—
 “ and, do you hear Mrs. Good-
 “ will, (says the priest) put on
 “ your green satin-gown, flow-
 “ ered with divers colours ;”—
 “ nay, it is so old fashioned
 “ Mr. Goodwill;—indeed now,
 “ my brown lustring is better !”
 — “ Nay, fy now, Peggy ! —
 “ put it on, and remember
 “ it was in that gown (which
 “ is now about hirty years ago)
 “ I thought you the finest girl
 “ in the whole parish ; --come,
 “ be persuaded, it looks as fine
 “ as May in the sun-shine.”

Mrs.

Mrs. Goodwill immediately complied;—she, unlike to most modern wives, knew not what contradiction meant;—who, when she heard of a lady Gro——r, or Lig——r, had used to hold up her hands and bless herself on the occasion;—though she at the same time thought it but barely possible, that a wife could be false to the marriage-bed, or premeditate the ruin of a husband.

It was now near twelve, and the coach still waiting, when all the little remains of the once large parish (before it was inclosed) thronged round the door, to behold the uncommon spec-

tacle of the esquire's old coach, and madam Goodwill's best gown.

Young Mrs. Goodwill, on this occasion, wore a white lustring sack, and appeared beautiful as a bride, and as mild and innocent as the first spring of nature;---simplicity and ease were her attendants; — on her face the glow of health rivaled the blush of modesty; --- in short, all that was truly amiable in woman, was her own! ——— A more poetical pen than mine would perhaps have said, she was the child of Hebe, and the first favourite of the Graces!

The

The coachman now beginning to grow impatient, and John Trott swearing the esquire would be *non comput* at their staying so long,--- “ well, well,
 “ (cries the good priest) Betty,
 “ adjust my band;--- odds heart!
 “ (said he on recollection) my
 “ best beaver will never be dry
 “ and cleaned in time, so Betty,
 “ put my silk-rose in my old
 “ hat; --- and, hark’ee, Betty,
 “ get me a rose, a daffodown-
 “ dilly, a sprig of thyme, and
 “ some sweet marjoram, to take
 “ in my hand;--- it looks grace-
 “ ful; --- man, my dear wife
 “ and daughter, looks so little
 “ in the eyes of a superior,
 “ that we should always add
 “ what

“ what we can to our dignity !
 “ —Man is allowed the embel-
 “ lishments of art ; —— man,
 “ plain, simple, uninstructed
 “ man, would be a prodigy ;
 “ ---why is superior knowledge
 “ given us over brutes, but that
 “ we should soften by precept
 “ our original rude nature, to
 “ the more pleasing refine-
 “ ments of informed humani-
 “ ty ?--But come, Mrs. Good-
 “ will, these good people wait
 “ for us ;---get in daughter ;---
 “ how do you sit ?” --- “ very
 “ well, Sir, I thank you ;”---
 “ why, ay, child, I think it is
 “ as easy as a pulpit ; ——ay,
 “ these great people have their
 “ times ; --- but why should I
 “ lament

“ lament the good of others ;
 “ — I would do nothing that
 “ looks like envy.---Very pret-
 “ ty prospects here, Mrs. Good-
 “ will !”---“ Ay, Sammy, I see
 “ these often on foot ; you
 “ know I am a great walker.”
 — “ It is good for your health,
 “ my life ; --- and as for these
 “ prospects, as I was observing
 “ before, whether you view
 “ them on foot, or from a car-
 “ riage, there is no very mate-
 “ rial difference ;---it is just the
 “ same with mankind ; --- a
 “ man has the same figure here
 “ as at court ; --- and though
 “ dress and splendor may be
 “ wanting to make outward
 “ appearance as elegant and
 “ grace-

“ graceful, yet, consequently,
 “ having less occasion for art
 “ to hide the deformities both
 “ of body and mind, our sentimental faculties may be endued with more honesty, sense, and discernment.”

“ For my part, Mrs. Goodwill, I am bigotted to no party ; — but I must confess, I have often read, with tears and horror, of those all-devouring sons of public rapine, who, like the sanguine progeny of the generous pe-
 “ lican, live upon the blood and
 “ vitals of their country.——
 “ Now and then, indeed, a nabob arrives rich, with the
 “ ruins

“ ruins of a distant climate,
 “ one who has literally fed on
 “ the blood of thousands, and
 “ whose wealth is curst with
 “ the tears of millions of poor
 “ creatures, whose embittered
 “ lives now lament in vain his
 “ treacherous ravage! --- But
 “ when I see or hear of a com-
 “ missary, who but fled yester-
 “ day from the terrors of a jail,
 “ and the just resentment of
 “ deceived mankind; I say,
 “ when I see such a man to-
 “ day lolling in his chariot on
 “ the plains of Newmarket, or
 “ rolling round the country to
 “ collect an estate for his yet
 “ unheard-of generation, which
 “ he amasses from the folly of
 “ spend-

“ spendthrift heirs, who sacrifice
 “ their next generation, to that
 “ misery and contempt the o-
 “ ther had just now risen from,
 “ I am lost in astonishment to
 “ think, that mankind are so
 “ easily duped, and so quietly
 “ imposed upon ; but indeed,
 “ all betrayers of the public
 “ trust, have the same effron-
 “ tery and the same success ; of
 “ which we have had several
 “ recent instances ; for my part
 “ I must confess, that I look
 “ upon the very robbers, who
 “ strike terror to the midnight
 “ hours of the wealthy, to be
 “ by far the honestest men, since
 “ they generally steal from ne-
 “ cessity, with a view only to
 “ satisfy

“ satisfy the common calls of
 “ nature, whilst the others
 “ strive to possess by rapine,
 “ public injustice, and by na-
 “ tional robbery, more than
 “ the shortness of this life will
 “ give them an opportunity of
 “ enjoying ;---and, for the sake
 “ of being opulent for a few
 “ gaudy days of life, they bold-
 “ ly (if I may use the expres-
 “ sion) venture to languish out
 “ the unmeasurable length of
 “ never to be described eter-
 “ nity in unfurmountable mi-
 “ sery !”

“ Why, my dear Sammy,
 “ (replied Mrs. Goodwill, yawn-
 “ ing) you are more violent
 “ than

“ than I ever recollect to have
 “ heard you; you must con-
 “ sider that Mr. Lumber goes
 “ to court, and may have con-
 “ nections there; you must be
 “ very careful to avoid all this
 “ kind of discourse when you
 “ come to the hall.”

“ Nay, my life, (replied the
 “ priest rather hastily) the king
 “ himself, were he present,
 “ should never command an
 “ alteration of my opinion, if I
 “ thought that opinion was not
 “ grafted on justice.---I do not
 “ expect, my dear, to rise in
 “ the church by my plainness,
 “ I must confess; and I know
 “ what our esquire thinks of
 “ me

“ me too well, to expect to be
 “ made a bi————p of by his
 “ interest; for he has had every
 “ satisfactory proof to convince
 “ him, that he shall never be
 “ able to command my vote in
 “ a bad cause; — odso! this
 “ is a very rough dirty road,
 “ Mrs. Goodwill; I think it
 “ wants smoothing and level-
 “ ling;---but what was I talk-
 “ ing of? oh! it was about
 “ being a bi————p;”---“ay,
 “ Sammy, (replied Mrs. Good-
 “ will in raptures) I should like
 “ to see you with a pair of fine
 “ white lawn sleeves!”---“ay,
 “ my dear, but that is what
 “ will never happen---nor in-
 “ deed is a thing I greatly wish
 “ for

“ for --- it is too important a
 “ trust for me ! ---The care of
 “ souls, and the good of na-
 “ tions, at one and the same
 “ time, would confound and
 “ perplex me ; —— in short, I
 “ would rather remain as I am;
 “ —whilst I am able to preach
 “ the word, and inform my
 “ little flock, that there is ano-
 “ ther world of rewards and
 “ punishments, I myself ought
 “ to be the first to think that
 “ there are rewards from an
 “ omnipotent God, preferable
 “ to an old time-shaken palace,
 “ or the lawn sleeves of a bi-
 “ shop---because these rewards,
 “ like their great and almighty
 “ Founder,

“ Founder, are eternal, and,
 “ not like a title, transitory.”

Mrs. Goodwill, determined not to be behind hand in philosophy and content, chased away the delusive phantom of a bishopric and lawn-sleeves, and blessed the honest purport of his heart, while young Mrs. Goodwill observed, how happy it would be for mankind, could such distinguished virtue meet with a suitable reward, both for its own sake and the good of others.--- “ I do not know that
 “ child, (replied the priest) as
 “ I am, I think as a man ! —
 “ were I greater, I might act
 “ as a monster ! --- I pity now
 “ the

“ the want and misery of others,
 “ from the feeling of my own
 “ inquietudes ! --- Were I free
 “ from those ills, and above the
 “ cares of life, I might also for-
 “ get the cares and inquietudes
 “ of others !---If it were God’s
 “ will, I should like to have
 “ something more, that I might
 “ be better able to assist the
 “ distresses of others ; ---but as
 “ for myself, I declare I have
 “ no wish for more content
 “ than what I am now truly
 “ master of ! ---- Man was not
 “ born to be entirely happy in
 “ this life ; --- he meets with
 “ various interruptions ; --- such
 “ as, loss of friends -- apprehensions of a future change,
 “ even

“ even in the best of men---in-
 “ solence from superiors; which,
 “ together with a thousand
 “ other inevitable accidents,
 “ make our short pilgrimage
 “ upon earth less tolerable than
 “ the fatigue would be to a
 “ man of more moderate de-
 “ fires; —a man, whose heart
 “ is void of guilt, and whose
 “ passions are the subjects of
 “ his will.”

Goodwill here stopped, with
 “ Nay, my dear Mrs. Goodwill,
 “ I did not mean to provoke a
 “ tear;—my daughter too!—
 “ Yet I will not chide! — the
 “ overflowings of an honest
 “ heart, joined to a mind of
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“ real sensibility, is a sacrifice
 “ not ungrateful to the Most
 “ High !”

“ But, my dear Sammy, (re-
 “ plied Mrs. Goodwill) the very
 “ thought of parting here, you
 “ know, would damp the hap-
 “ pier moments of my life.”
 “ Why then, my dear, let the
 “ thoughts of meeting in eter-
 “ nity, erase the weakness from
 “ your heart——but I am no
 “ philosopher, and must con-
 “ fess, that on these occasions,
 “ my own tears are too ready;
 “ —but let us change the sub-
 “ ject.——Odsso! — now you
 “ may see the house;—we are
 “ driving up the avenue;—it
 “ is

“ is large and spacious indeed !
 “ — In old times, I warrant,
 “ hospitality was the only por-
 “ ter at the door ; — but now
 “ our fine gentlemen only come
 “ into the country to live pri-
 “ vately, and bury themselves
 “ for the greatest part of the
 “ year in a little box in town,
 “ with three rooms on a floor !
 “ — But they must all have
 “ their humours ; — city plea-
 “ sures may be best ; ——— not
 “ that I would reside there, were
 “ I a bishop, — unless it was to
 “ give a vote for the good of
 “ my country, when her un-
 “ natural sons were either go-
 “ ing to sell or enslave her.” —
 “ Ah ! Sammy, thou wilt ne-

“ ver be a great man with these
 “ principles !”— “ Then mind
 “ me, Peggy ;—if to be a great
 “ man, I must have no prin-
 “ ciples at all, let me remain
 “ an honest one, in full hopes
 “ that I may be able to con-
 “ vince the world, that the
 “ faithful servant of his God, is
 “ greater than the time-serv-
 “ ing, truth-disguising hireling
 “ of any prince !”

Being now near near the end
 of their journey, they dropped
 the subject, and amused them-
 selves with the beautiful views
 the park abounded with, thro’
 which they were passing up to
 the house, which they happily
 reached

reached in a few minutes, without any accident, where, if agreeable to the reader, we will leave them, and take a little refreshment, in order to give us spirits to begin and go thro' the next chapter, which is truly interesting, being chequered with sorrow, surprize, and joy.

C H A P. XI.

The Arrival ; — the Return and affecting Interview of young Mr. Goodwill, his Sister, and Family ; — Story of young Mrs. Goodwill ; — Dutch Generosity — Seduction and Discovery of young Goodwill's Sister ; — the Marriage ; — Dinner served up ; with the Parson's Observations on powdered Footmen and Sheep's Heads ; — the Arrival of Jonathan with the News of the Rector's Death, and his excessive Joy thereat ; — with many other Particulars truly worthy of Notice.

JOHNN TROTT had no sooner announced the arrival of the visitors, by a treble rap at the door, than all the servants repaired to the carriage to welcome

come the new guests, who were instantly ushered into a large saloon; where, by order of Mr. Lumbar, who made one of the party, they were refreshed with tea, coffee, and chocolate, the usual morning beverage of the great. The good parson, indeed, made an oblique hint for a cup of ale and some bread and cheese; but Mrs. Goodwill, perceiving his drift, gave him a significant wink, which immediately hushed his desires.

When the esquire thought his company were sufficiently refreshed, he begged the favour of their attendance in the parlour, where he had a scene to

unfold, which he hoped, and doubted not, in the end, would give them all satisfaction and pleasure. They all nodded assent, and said they should obey with chearfulness. Mr. Lumbar then begged them to follow him to the next room, where, to their great surprize, they were no sooner arrived, than a young couple in very elegant attire, presented themselves on their knees to the good old priest and his wife, craving their blessing ;—but how great was their astonishment, when they found them to be their long-lost children ; the long-lamented dear-loved children of their hearts ; nor tongue can tell,

tell, nor pen describe the situa-
 tion of each party; — but duty
 soon gave way to filial affection:
 they instantly rose and clasped
 the authors of, their being in
 their long-estranged arms. —
 After the first raptures of this
 eclaircissement were over, —
 “ Great God Omnipotent ! (ex-
 “ claimed the priest) whose ways
 “ are wonderful, and far be-
 “ yond the search of narrow-
 “ sighted man ! and do I now
 “ enfold those objects of my
 “ affection which I supposed
 “ long since dead to me ? — Is
 “ it possible that these arms
 “ should now embrace my son
 “ and daughter—my long-lost
 “ children—the companions of

“ my youth ! — And do I yet
 “ live to have my old age blest
 “ with their return ! — Shall I
 “ not live to receive comfort
 “ from their tongues—will now
 “ their filial piety and affection
 “ gild with tranquillity the eve
 “ of my life, and make my
 “ latter days decline with plea-
 “ sure ?—Now could I say with
 “ the Psalmist, *Here will I dwell,*
 “ *for I have a delight therein !*
 “ Oh, Mrs. Goodwill, this joy
 “ is too great, too much for me
 “ to bear ; — but it is vain,
 “ —alas ! she hears me not ;
 “ this unexpected general tide
 “ of joy has overcome her spi-
 “ rits—your wife too George,
 “ I see requires assistance ; —
 “ haste

“ haste to relieve Mr. Lumbar,
 “ who is now supporting her.
 “ — Who but the Almighty
 “ can account for the vicissi-
 “ tudes of this life? — God of
 “ our fathers, whose all-potent
 “ will didst call forth this fair
 “ scene of things; whose breath,
 “ pregnant with life, our two
 “ first parents raised; and who
 “ alone hast power to reduce
 “ all things to their primitive
 “ state, preserve unto us, we
 “ beseech thee, the use of our
 “ senses in this moment of
 “ trial;—and enable us to bear,
 “ as we ought, the overflow-
 “ ings of thy bounty!”

While the good priest was going on at this rate, the esquire, fearful of the consequences that might ensue, stopt him short, and informed him, that the rest of the family were not in a situation to attend to his pious observations, and requested his assistance to extricate them from their situations.

“ Forgive me, my dear Mr.
 “ Lumbar, (exclaimed the par-
 “ son) this excess of transport!
 “ — My children are dear to
 “ me, Mr. Lumbar, and from
 “ this strange revival dearer to
 “ me than ever.” When, turning about, his extasy was suddenly changed into fear and anxiety,

anxiety, by observing, that his daughter-in-law had fallen into a swoon, and lay almost lifeless on the breast of her husband; — the amazing revolution in her favour, was too sudden and too strong for the weakness and delicacy of her constitution. However, with a little water and hartshorn, which was quickly brought in, she, to their great joy, began to recover, and by degrees got tolerably well; — the rose, united with the lily, now began to claim the usual seat of empire: but no sooner had she recovered the use of her speech, than looking on Mr. George Goodwill with the utmost

most tenderneſs, ſhe exclaimed,
 “ Support me, Heaven, or I
 “ be diſtracted, overwhelmed
 “ with this flood of unexpected
 “ happineſs ! Thus tender, thus
 “ affectionate, how ſhall I bear
 “ the raptures that ſucceed
 “ each other. Clafped in thoſe
 “ dear, thoſe ever faithful
 “ arms. Oh ! George, did you
 “ but know my ſtrange ſtory—
 “ what has happened to me in
 “ your abſence—but I rave—
 “ I have ſuffered nothing. Hea-
 “ ven raiſed me a friend in my
 “ diſtreſs. But how has my
 “ life, my husband, paſſed thro’
 “ all the ſtorms of ill fortune,
 “ and ſtemmed the ſtrong tor-

“rent of adverse fate, when
 “strong necessity mocks the
 “weakness of humanity?”—

He smiled affectionately, and wept by turns. — “Angel of
 “my heart (he cried) Providence did not desert me—
 “But what must thou have
 “suffered ! How often has thy
 “gentle bosom heaved with
 “anguish. How often have
 “tears watered those cheeks,
 “and sorrows undeserved, rent
 “that soft bosom—I have felt
 “for thee, though absent. I have
 “borne a part in those griefs,
 “and sympathised with her
 “who ever possessed my heart.
 “But it is time I should satisfy
 “thee :

“ thee : it is my cue to unfold
 “ all.—The truth ought in all
 “ things to be spoke in com-
 “ pensation for hours of folly
 “ past.—In short, my uncle at
 “ Amsterdam had no *gout* for
 “ English beggary--he was bare-
 “ ly civil—no more — I wait-
 “ ed week after week, in hopes
 “ yet to sow seed on a barren
 “ soil, and move his savage na-
 “ ture with compassion.—At
 “ length I owned my marriage
 “ —my hopes were over—he
 “ told me if that was the case, all
 “ was over indeed, and wished
 “ my imprudence might be a
 “ warning to others, as he said,
 “ I could only expect to ap-
 “ pear in the debtor side of the

“ Book

“ Book of Life.—I married
“ myself, continued he—and
“ your aunt is a good sort of
“ body—but she was then past
“ child-bearing, and had a real
“ fortune of twenty thousand
“ Florins--both conditions were
“ good. — But this is nothing
“ to the purpose : I expect more
“ from your aunt’s family—
“ and so I shall do all I can for
“ her relations—therefore here
“ —here is a bill of 30 l. take
“ it — and say I did my best
“ for you.—And heark’ye!—if
“ you can do nothing else, lad,
“ go to sea.—Idleness brings
“ many to the gallows—well,
“ George, adieu ! I wish you
“ well.—As to your father,
“ bid

“ bid him mind his pulpit, and
 “ not think of relations in a
 “ distant part of the world,
 “ when there are no real ties
 “ in the world, but what de-
 “ pend upon interest.——

“ I left Holland—the most
 “ selfish place upon earth, di-
 “ rectly ; I wrote to you first,
 “ but received no answer — I
 “ knew not what to do, I was
 “ distracted ; afterwards I re-
 “ collected, I had, perhaps, in
 “ my agony of distress, written
 “ to you by the name of Good-
 “ will, instead of the feigned
 “ name of Hopkins, which
 “ might be the reason of your
 “ receiving no letter.—At last,
 “ fate

“ fate bore me to Paris, from
 “ whence I proposed an instant
 “ return to my native country.
 “ —I husbanded my small stock
 “ of money so well, as never
 “ to be in absolute want, tho,
 “ I debarred myself in a vo-
 “ luntary manner even of some
 “ of the common necessaries of
 “ life :—but judge how great
 “ was my surprize, when walk-
 “ ing later than usual, I saw
 “ the wheel of a coach break
 “ down on the other side the
 “ street, in which I saw my
 “ sister elegantly equipt, com-
 “ ing from a French ball; but
 “ when I learned her real dis-
 “ tress — how great was my
 “ agony ! — I found that Mr.
 “ Lum-

“ Lumbar had seduced her a-
 “ broad, on pretence of a se-
 “ cret marriage, being unwill-
 “ ing to disoblige his uncle.—
 “ Her wretched circumstances
 “ under a state of abject ser-
 “ vitude, had made her belief
 “ easy, and his offers agreeable.
 “ ——Yet, O my dear father,
 “ mother, wife; how should I
 “ beseech Providence that made me
 “ wretched a while, but afford-
 “ ed me opportunity of saving
 “ a dear sister from destruction.
 “ In short, I was desperate;—
 “ poor as I was and ruined, yet
 “ my heart was proud still—
 “ I went to Mr. Lumbar, de-
 “ manded her from his hands,
 “ or the justice of a gentleman,
 “ or

“ or an instant marriage.—Her
 “ tears prevailed over both my
 “ resentment and his superio-
 “ rity of fortune. The couple
 “ were married in our ambaf-
 “ fador’s chapel ;—feveral Eng-
 “ lish were at the ceremony—
 “ all he asked in return was, of
 “ only fecrecy to be preferved till
 “ he returned to England.—
 “ Several unforefeen accidents
 “ have delayed us, or we fhould
 “ have been over much fooner.
 “ — Never reproach him or
 “ my fifter.—Her error was a
 “ fortunate one, as it has made
 “ her and her family. — In-
 “ deed, amidft my warmeft re-
 “ proaches to her, I pitied the
 “ poor girl. It is extremely
 “ hard

“ hard upon the daughter of a
 “ Minister of the Church of
 “ England, from the inequa-
 “ lity of church preferments
 “ in our country, which run
 “ from palaces to hog-styes.—
 “ Whilst some are revelling
 “ above the sense of pain and
 “ want—I fear even reflection
 “ ——— others are on a level
 “ themselves, whilst they live
 “ with the meanest of the pa-
 “ rishioners ——— and at their
 “ deaths, their family that have
 “ been brought up with ten-
 “ derness and education above
 “ the common rank, have no
 “ choice but want or servitude,
 “ beggary or prostitution.”

Now

Now Mr. and Mrs. Lumbar who had withdrawn, returned, and dinner was served up. The parson followed;—observing it was a great pity in a time of artificial famine like this — a fellow in a livery should wear as much flour in his hair, as would have made a moderate pudding for a small family: while many a poor person was obliged (farmers being metamorphosed into gentlemen, and selling only by wholesale) to eat potatoes or other roots with their sheep's head and appurtenances; and the latter was not easily compassed, if there was but a good pack of fox-hounds in the neighbourhood to demand them

of

of the butchers. — “ Dumb
 “ creatures should not be starv-
 “ ed (continued he)—but sure
 “ it is full as hard for man
 “ that is not dumb, to go with
 “ an empty stomach :—indeed,
 “ indeed, I could wish we had
 “ better regulations—but what
 “ signifies my preaching to a
 “ country audience about these
 “ affairs? — they cannot help
 “ themselves — and those who
 “ preach to the great, too often
 “ mislead them.”

Three days past in jollity—
 the happiness of the little com-
 munity were not to be describ-
 ed.—On the fourth day arrived
 Jonathan in a *parilous burry*,

as

as he calls it, and speak to measter he must.—He was brought into a room whither the priest was afterwards conducted, to receive the ambassador of his little republic—— “ Well, Jonathan” — “ Ah ! Measter, Ise heard all — and so glad, and to be sure our Sue, and five more gossips got tipsey for joy, and shouted the Methodist man out of the pulpit last night, I was cruelly pleased —but, sure; wou’d you think it, our rector is dead : news arrived last night at twelve : he died of an indejection—— indeed, his man said that he were forely bad last venison-season, and thought he

“ never would outlive ano-
 “ ther. — Now, Sir, I am so
 “ glad, they say, I cannot speak
 “ for tears : — they say, now
 “ our great 'Squire has married
 “ your daughter, it is your
 “ of course—I shall never sur-
 “ vive the joy of it, Sir ; — it
 “ will certainly kill me. In-
 “ deed, one thing does some-
 “ how sadden my mirth a little,
 “ or — as to the living” — “ I
 “ dare say, Jonathan, I shall
 “ continue your pastor — in-
 “ deed, I would change for
 “ no earthly advantage. Like
 “ a good prince, it becomes
 “ me to love those subjects
 “ who work hard to maintain
 “ me. In this respect, man is
 “ infe-

“ inferior to the worms; he
 “ cannot spin out of his own
 “ vitals. There is a chain of
 “ beings, Jonathan, and often
 “ the great are, in some mea-
 “ sure obliged even to the
 “ meanest of their dependants.
 “ But pray tell me what is your
 “ trouble, Jonathan? What is
 “ it that clouds over the sun-
 “ shine of your mirth?”—

“ Why Sir (replied the good
 “ man) our neighbour the
 “ exciseman — and he knows
 “ a great deal for sartain: I
 “ believe no body will deny
 “ that; he says as he is able
 “ to talk even with the Squire
 “ himself: well then, he tells
 H 2 “ me,

“ me, as how all our great
 “ folks are turned downright
 “ heathens — they have built
 “ a place they call a Pantheon
 “ in London, just like a wick-
 “ ed place of the same name
 “ that there was abroad ; and
 “ this they have filled with
 “ images and painted idols.
 “ Good Sir, if such fancies
 “ should spread in the country,
 “ what will become of us that
 “ are true Protestants ? — what
 “ with Papists, Methodists, and
 “ Heathens, we shall all be de-
 “ voured ; — or our bones, in-
 “ stead of being laid in graves
 “ in Christian fort, with a good
 “ stave or two fung over them,
 “ will be used for laying foun-
 “ dations

“ dations for a wall to inclose
 “ the wicked works of New
 “ Babylon.”

“ Fear not, Jonathan (re-
 “ plied Mr. Goodwill) but take
 “ it on my word, there would
 “ never be a general resort to
 “ any such place of idolatry as
 “ required half a guinea en-
 “ trance, even if our great ones
 “ were blind enough literally
 “ to resort to ancient heathenism.
 “ ———But, Jonathan, after all,
 “ this Pantheon, though it is
 “ called by the name of an idol
 “ temple that was in Rome, is
 “ not a place of heathen de-
 “ votion, but a place of DI-
 “ VERSION; or if you will, a
 H 3 “ place

“ place of luxury, for dis-
 “ playing the vanities of
 “ this foolish world. Indeed,
 “ idleness and vice abound ; but
 “ let us hope that times will
 “ mend, so that every honest
 “ man after buffeting with the
 “ storms of life, may at last
 “ sit down under his own vine
 “ in peace and tranquillity.”—

Such were the sentiments of
 Mr. Goodwill, on whom the
 living was soon after bestowed ;
 and who by this happy turn of
 fortune, was enabled to live re-
 spectably. Happy in his wife,
 unexpectedly so in his children,
 benevolent in his nature, and
 now possessed of his means to
 prac-

practise acts of charity, he spent his days loving and beloved among his parishioners, an example of true Christian piety. His son and daughter-in-law resided near 'Esquire Lumbar's house, at which they were always welcome guests; and many were rendered the better for their good fortune.—

All these particulars which I have just related, served my mistress for topics of discourse, having been a frequent guest at young Mr. Goodwill's, whose wife did not forget the promise she had made of doing something for her former companion.

Indeed, she remembered it very opportunely ; for the company had not been long arrived at the place of destination, before a certain Methodist declared his resolution of getting them removed out of the town, tho' the neighbouring Justice was slow in listening to him, and some of the principal inhabitants were in their favour. However, Mrs. Crotchet had not been there above three weeks, when such regular informations were laid before his worship, as he declared he could not flight, the Methodist having won over the constable and some tradesmen whom the players

ers did not deal with, to his party.

In consequence, Mr. Stormwell and his associates were obliged to decamp to the next village, which was about ten miles distant, where they met with so little success, that tho' the good-natured manager contributed to ease them, out of what are called his dead shares, yet the performers were almost in a starving condition, and ready to disperse themselves several ways, when a letter arrived from Mrs. Goodwill, desiring Mrs. Crotchet to come to her directly, as she had something in view for her advantage.

Mrs. Crotchet, you will imagine, was not backward in accepting the invitation, and I who had been long since released from the bundle where I was half-starved, and almost pressed to death, and glad to return to my old quarters, was now pleased, from motives of curiosity, to accompany her.

On our arrival, my dame was informed, that a female friend of old Mrs. Goodwill's who was then going to London, wanted a housekeeper. Mrs. Crotchet being properly recommended, undertook this place, though she was heard to declare she would rather Fortune had

had so ordered it as to cast her lot with a single gentleman.— However, as the wages were good, and she had reason to believe the place would be otherwise eligible, she thanked those who procured it for her, and set off in a post-chaise for London, after having received some little presents, in token of remembrance, from the Goodwill family.

C H A P. XII.

Character of a young Widow ; --- A new Misadventure happens to Mrs. Crotchet, in Consequence of an Intrigue ; ---- Comical Situations ; ----- Beggars sometimes Choosers ; --- Anecdotes of a worshipful Personage and his Family.

MR S. CROTCHET arrived safe with her mistress in London, and was presently introduced to a handsome house, where she had the superintendence of three servants, which with herself made up the family of Mrs. Leeson, who was a widow of about forty, of a healthy constitution, with a face that was comely enough, and

and once had been really handsome.——

This gentlewoman, though she descended from a good family, had herself been once a servant, but was restored to the rank which she formerly held in life, by means of a marriage with an elderly gentleman who was her first and last master.— Unlike too many who are thus unexpectedly advanced in life, she declared the belief, that the humble station she once occupied, had been of service to her, by teaching her to repress a pride often entertained by young people of considerable fortune or expectations. Mrs. Leeson's
conduct

conduct was regulated accordingly; and thus by her affability, and a generosity which never swelled into extravagance, she gained the good-will of most persons, but particularly of her servants, to whom she was a kind mistress. She had, however, her weakness — for what mortal of either sex is exempt from frailty! Her's was an amorous disposition, which perhaps might have admitted less apology, had it been more completely gratified in her earlier days. But there was a great disparity in her age, and that of her husband, to whom she proved an obedient and a virtuous wife. This
was

was from gratitude, but there was nothing of a softer passion on the female side.

It may be conceived, that a woman in Mrs. Leeson's situation, was not without her suitors : indeed she had many ; and in this vanity she indulged herself ; but the part of her conduct which some of the " busy, " talking world " thought proper to censure was, that among the fluctuation of lovers, she was sometimes apt to be particular with some favourite one, without drawing to the verge of matrimony.

An

An Irish officer in the sea-service, was the present object of envy and jealousy. Mrs. Crotchet had not been long in her place, before she thought she perceived her mistress's partiality to this son of Neptune. She knew he had private interviews with the lady; the consequence was, that she longed to know also what passed at these, and the more so, as she was not made a confidante; for indeed, nobody in the family was intrusted on these occasions. But this circumstance did not seem to be found policy, as it was impossible for the captain, as he was called, to come and

go

go entirely unobserved. Ever since Mrs. Crotchet had been housekeeper, however, it had been customary to suffer no other servants to remain in the mansion during these interviews.

Now the dæmon of curiosity, as we have before hinted, working strongly upon her, she was resolved to take the first opportunity of discovering whatever she could as to the deportment of the lady and gentleman in their *tête-à-têtes*.—— Preparatory to the accomplishment of this design, she had found means of making an aperture over the door of the chamber

ber where they usually spent an hour together, which she artfully filled up, so as not be noticed, till she chose to open it for the purpose aforesaid.

One evening, the captain coming, according to his usual custom, the servants having been dispatched several ways, when Mrs. Crotchet had ushered him up stairs, and concluded that the conversation was begun, she mounted on a pair of steps which she had at hand, in order to apply her eye to the peep-hole, which was so contrived as to command a view of the whole room.—It was not a bed-chamber: there was neither

ther bed nor couch in the apartment; but there was a settee, on which the captain and Mrs. Leeson reclined in a very amorous situation. While my good dame Crotchet was gazing on this scene, as the calls of hunger were strong upon me, I gave her a bite, which chancing to be on a tender part, she gave a sudden start at the interruption, and the steps, which were rather old and crazy, slipped, and fell forward against the door. The living and the dead weight united, were too strong for resistance; — the lock, which was not formed to encounter so strong an attack, gave way, and in bounced, involuntarily, the
curious

curious housekeeper, feet forward, so that the drapery was quite thrown aside; nor could “the fainter lawn” — if lawn it was — conceal any of her antiquated charms. — The lady blushed; the gentleman stormed; after a pause, like that of the screen-scene in the School for Scandal, had held all parties for a moment in mute suspense.

“Are you not ashamed,” (said Mrs. Leeson at last, mustering up her spirits) “are you not ashamed, Crotchet, to behave in such a manner? — fy on your rudeness; fy on your indecency.” —
 “Mercy! cried the house-keeper,

“ keeper, when some people
 “ talk of indecency, they ought
 “ to look at home, one cannot
 “ help falling ; but people
 “ might help” — “ Hold your
 “ tongue, Mrs. Impertinence !”
 “ Ay ! ay, nobody loves to
 “ be touched in a fore place ;
 “ that is no news. To be sure
 “ I say nothing ; but *a guilty*
 “ *conscience needs no accuser.*
 “ At least one cannot be hang-
 “ ed for thinking.”——“ But
 “ you may lose your place for
 “ your impudence, huſſey !”——

Mrs. Crotchet little brooked
 this treatment, on the one hand ;
 whilſt, on the other, not only
 her lady, but the captain, threat-
 ened

ened aloud. Just at this instant, Betty, the house-maid, knocked at the door, and her superior withdrew, muttering, from the scene of altercation, while the captain and Mrs. Leeson came down into the parlour. The former presently took his leave; and he was not long gone, before the latter seeing that she had been rather too hasty in her reproofs to one that had seen more than she could wish, sent for the curious dame, in order to have some private conversation with her. Perhaps the sagacious reader will guess the general tenor of it.—The intent was to soothe her, which Mrs. Leeson knew

knew well how to do, without departing from her own station. Some arguments properly addressed, and enforced with a little present, served to sweeten Mrs. Crotchet's otherwise disturbed temper; inasmuch that it was not doubted but she would keep silence with regard to the circumstance above related.

But it is not every body that can keep a secret. Notwithstanding the concessions that had been made to the party supposed to be aggrieved, the whole of the business was communicated, not only to Betty, who indeed was by no means a tattler,

tatler, but also to the other servants; and in consequence, was presently discovered to those who knew how to tell a story with additions, which were needless in a matter of such a nature. As the lady could not easily be supposed not to hear of it, and must necessarily be sensible where it originated, the inevitable consequence was the discharge of Mrs. Crotchet; but before this took place, being willing to remain in the family, and never greatly satisfied with such quarters as the house-keeper afforded me, I took an opportunity, when she was in close conversation with the house-maid, of hopping to the
hand-

handkerchief of the latter, from whence I quickly descended within her stays, and lay as close as a bosom-friend, in a spot where the prominences on either side well concealed me.

Betty was a good-natured girl, as well as a good servant; and if she had not fallen under the predicament of being *too young*, would have succeeded Mrs. Crotchet in the place of house-keeper, acting also as waiting-woman occasionally. But not being of an aspiring disposition, she was contented when she saw that post filled by another, who being a foreigner, made herself very agreeable. Mrs.

Leeson, though she wanted not for good sense, nor possessed that pride which is called haughtiness, was not without the little vanities incident to her sex, and peculiarly so to most amorous widows; therefore Madame la Friponne easily ingratiated herself, taking especial care to tell no disgusting truths, and being always ready to flatter the prevailing foibles of her mistress.

It frequently happens, indeed, that “such flaws are found
“ in the most worthy natures,”
and these flaws are often productive of inconvenience.—

Thus it happened with regard

to

to the lady in question ; for Mademoiselle la Friponne, whenever her mistress lamented the censures of the world seemed to cast upon her, used all the rhetoric she possessed, in persuading her not to mind them.

“ De *world* ! Mon Dieu ! Vat
 “ is dat ? In France it be de
 “ term ve give to de canaille,
 “ de vulgar, to *every body*, dat
 “ is, to nobody dat one knows
 “ or dat one cares for. — De
 “ peuple of leetel minds, let
 “ dem regard de *world* ; but
 “ vat is de *world* to de per-
 “ son of rank or fortune ?
 “ And, ven all is said, who shall
 “ be de judge for you, madam,
 “ as to vat is your pleasure or

“ your vantage, or your in-
 “ clination? Who but yourself?
 “ Love is von grande object of
 “ life—vive l’amour ! and let
 “ all de *world* vid deir visdom
 “ go to de diable !”

Mrs. Leeson, like too many,
 was ready enough to listen, as
 Betty used to say, to such rea-
 soning or perversion of reason,
 call it which you please ; and,
 to be brief, she gave herself up
 so entirely to her captain, that
 the fruits of their close con-
 nexion becoming visible, a mar-
 riage was urged with a person
 not worth a penny, as the means
 of preserving her reputation.

This

This was what the Irishman wanted, who, without the open regular addresses adopted by her other lovers, had played off his private battery against the weaker part of the fortress.— They were united, but not happily ; for, from the moment Mrs. Leeson became Mrs. Donnelly, she bade adieu to that cheerfulness and felicity which had been the companions of her former state. The Hibernian, who was one of the ungenerous class of his countrymen, no sooner became her husband, than he grew her tyrant.—Her days being thus made unhappy by his behaviour, she began most ardently

to wish for a separation ; but her good comfort saved her the trouble of a formal one. He had drawn what money she had out at interest, in right of a husband, and no settlement had been made : to this he added the meanness of possessing himself of her plate and jewels, and what ready cash he could find, and set off for the Continent, leaving his spouse, who had borne one child that died of the small-pox, a second time pregnant, a few months after this unprosperous marriage.

Betty, with whom, as I have told you, I was now quartered, had thus before her a sad example

ample of a female's yielding up her reason to the government of her passions.—The girl was amorous as well as her mistress. Nature, which gave her a sanguine complexion, and a full healthy form, had cast her in such a mould; but thus taught a little by the experience of another, she acquired command enough of herself to forbear granting the last favour to any of her sweethearts; for like Mrs. Leeson, she had more than one; at the same time, she had her particular favourite. It was true, however, that Betty granted him so many indulgences that I sometimes trembled for her virtue, as well as for my

own existence, when this eager lover explored some of my most secret haunts, to which persons of a stricter virtue would never have given any one access. Once, in particular, when I was posted in that spot where first I took shelter, I remember I was very near squeezed to death by his amorous pressure; however, thank my stars! I escaped that, as well as other dangers, being reserved by destiny to write this history, for the information and entertainment of the public.

But to proceed.—Besides the
aforesaid weakness, which she
adopted resolution enough to
restrain

restrain within bounds, this girl had another that she indulged to a most silly extravagance. It was the wish of knowing her fortune.—Cards, omens, tea or coffee-grounds, Gipsies were, in turn, applied to; and though it necessarily happened that the events thus severally foretold; often contradicted each other, yet her faith in such sort of predictions was unshaken. Gentle reader, will you here indulge me, with a digression?—The sentiments are drawn from Mr. Goodwill, with whose disposition you have been fully acquainted.

Perhaps, of all the follies to which the human mind is subject, he would say, there is scarcely any one more absurd in itself, than the desire of prying into futurity, and the means adopted to gratify it.—It is allowed this disposition has prevailed from the earliest ages.—Astrologers, magicians, &c. were consulted in ancient times: oracles were likewise held in repute; but when did the predictions of any of these contribute to the service of those who consulted them? The answers of all were equivocal; nor did they even pretend they could accelerate the good, or avert the evil they affected to foretel. If
they

they could not, of what consequence was it to consult them? Were it granted that any human being could give you a transcript of that page in the book of Fate which relates to what shall happen to you in future, as life generally abounds with ills, what would result from your foreknowledge without the power of preventing any evil that was in future to befall you; what but embittering the enjoyments of the present hour; what but the loading you with a weight of care and anxiety?

After all, from whence can such a knowledge be derived?

In this enlightened age the idea of magic is exploded ; nor can the evil spirit be supposed to be possessed of such prescience. That is the attribute of the Deity, who alone can tell what shall befall the creatures of his hand.—As to the stars, the planets, &c. they fulfil their place in the creation ; but their configurations can never affect our fate or our dispositions. Hear a part of their reasoning who affect to believe the contrary.—They ascribe to the sun and moon ; to Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Venus, Mercury, and the stars, most of the qualities which the heathens were accustomed to give to the fictitious deities

deities known by those names. Is it not the height of absurdity at this time to believe such vanities? And besides, (as a certain emperor enquired of a person, who pretended to cast his nativity) if the position of the heavenly bodies is supposed to determine the fate of a person born under such or such a configuration, how many thousands must necessarily be born exactly to the same fortune, in regard to prosperity, adversity, health, sickness, life or death? And as he added, “What numbers must be born to be emperors, by this scheme, who perhaps have lived and died
“ beg-

“beggars and vagrants upon
“the earth?”

Nor can any of these boasters tell what shall befall themselves, which certainly ought more nearly to concern them than the fate of others; a great proof indeed of the truth of their pretended science, and the vast use of their affected knowledge of events!

Yet such are the absurdities which people run into, that those who will scarcely give credit either to sacred or mathematical truths will readily believe, that some men, on account of their excellence and learning, and
some

some old women, on account of their age, ignorance and deformity, cannot only foretel events, but inflict evils out of the common course of nature on such as they take an antipathy against; as if the Ruler of the Universe would thus suffer any beings to sport with the happiness of their fellow-creatures, or dispose, at will, of the works of his creation, in order to suit their caprice, or gratify their evil inclinations!—

Reader, if such arguments as these will not convince you of the folly of trusting to these old wives fables, Mr. Goodwill cannot but give you up as incorrigible.

rigible. Having given you his opinions on the subject, I shall now continue the thread of my history.

Betty, as I have observed, being so strongly addicted to the ideas of fortune-telling, never slipped an opportunity of gratifying her favourite inclination. — Among the rest who pretended to this science was a poor woman, who having dyed her skin pretty deeply with the juice of walnut-shells, &c. in the double capacity of a beggar and fortune-teller, conducted herself according to the disposition of those to whom she made her application.

As she called frequently at Mrs. Leeson's, who always encouraged her servants to dispose of the broken victuals, and at certain times gave them money to bestow on objects of charity, this woman became one of the house-maid's pensioners; and seeing a little into her disposition, whispered (for it was pretended to be a great secret) "That she could tell her fortune."

This was to be done by chiromancy, (the knowledge of the lines of the hand) joined to that of the disposition of the stars, with which the impostor pretended also to be acquainted, having

having once lived with an astrologer or conjuror, and learned enough of his jargon to pass upon servant-maids and such sort of persons, amidst all her dirt and rags, for an adept in this boasted science.

In this pretended Gipsey's hands, Betty was now silly enough to deposit a quantity of silver which she had saved, in crowns, half-crowns, and shillings, on a promise, that under such a particular influence of the stars, they should be changed to broad pieces of gold, guineas, and half-guineas, after she had muttered some charms over them, which she said would
take

take up about an hour. This being agreed to, the beggar returned at the time appointed, to shew her honesty, and to redeem some books of fortune-telling, &c. which she had left as pledges behind her. As the money had been given her in a packet, sealed up, according to her direction, so she returned it with the seals all apparently unbroken, with the addition of some strange characters written on the back of it.—Having taken a crown, in earnest of what she was to receive for this wonderful metamorphosis, she directed the credulous Betty (whose good fortune in marriage, &c. she had already foretold)

told) not to open the packet till four hours afterwards, being exactly the hour of midnight. As a Flea of sagacity, I was inclined to doubt the Gipsy's integrity, and had just then skipped to the peak of Betty's cap, in order to take a view of this wonder-worker, when lo! a sudden gust of wind blew me from thence to the tattered cloak of the person whom I was surveying with so much attention. I immediately got under it, and sought for shelter in a bosom far different from that where I had been lately harboured, giving the old hag two or three nips, rather by way of revenge than for any great sustenance

tenance that I could expect to derive from her withered carcass.

She was now near sixty years of age.—Born in the neighbourhood of St. Giles's, her mother was a fruit-woman that wheeled a barrow thereabouts, and in the purlieus of Drury-lane and Covent-garden. Her father, whom the bonds of matrimony never united to his partner, was one who swept chimneys for his bread; but not confining himself to that honest employment, having made free with some articles that were not his own, was sentenced to transportation; and being already
very

very ill of a certain distemper communicated to him by his wife, as she was called, died on his passage.

Brown Sal as she was now called, had since her companion's death, while young, lived occasionally with particular friends, by selling fruit, or, as it might occasionally serve, upon the common. In all these several capacities, for several years she met with tolerable success; till at last, age prevented her from exercising the principal of her occupations; when observing how happily, according to the vulgar acceptation of the word, the people called beggars generally

rally lived, she resolved to take up the profession, joining it to that of fortune-telling, as has been already related.

To these honourable callings, she besides occasionally added a little flight of hand, which sometimes enabled her to make money at the expence of other people. In this latter, though generally successful, yet she now and then met with misadventures. Among these might be reckoned her being whipped once in London, and twice in the country; but Sal had too much fortitude, in her way, to let such little matters discompose her in her undertakings: she

she persevered with an unconquered spirit, and had been both a beggar and a fortune-teller for the space of ten years before I was quartered upon her.

I soon learned that she had cheated the credulous Betty, as I had before suspected. She had loosened the seals, and closed them again, by a device well known, leaving in the room of the silver a parcel of bad halfpence, doits, and pocket-pieces, which afforded the possessor of them the proof of a lamentable metamorphosis; and so far, at least, cured her of her folly, as to occasion her forbearing any connexion

nexion with such itinerant gentry for the future.—

Whilst I remained with Sal, I found myself in the midst of a numerous society of my own species, though I observed several of them dejected, and the generality ready to change their place of abode whenever an opportunity offered. The reason was, that their supporter being neither young nor healthy, though she fared well, the situation could not be agreeable.

I say, though she fared well; for being introduced with her to her acquaintance, I found their way of life in general to

be much the same as writers have represented it, apparently wretched in the street, but most jovial at their convivial meetings.—I have known companies of them sit down to the best of meat, with plenty of good liquors, carousing, swearing, and exhibiting in St. Giles's, a dissipation of manners, in vulgar life, equalling in their way and line the extravagances of their continually censured betters in the neighbourhood of St. James's.

It was at one of these festive meetings, that I took an opportunity of shifting my quarters, which I did by a strong leap
from

from her arm to that of fair-haired Lucy, who sat next her.

Lucy was a young girl who had lately been received into this honourable community.— She was born of poor parents. Her father, who was a working man, died when she was about thirteen years of age, her mother soon after followed him to the shades. The girl had been put out to service, but meeting with a bad mistress, quitted her situation, and acquired such idle habits as reduced her by degrees, for want of money and of character, to beggary. She was healthy, comely, and more cleanly by far

in her rags, than could have been expected.—With the little education she had, she was superior to most of the crew, at the same time that she had a manner apparently artless, which recommended her to the worst among them.

Lucy was now fifteen, and she was yet a virgin, though she was not without her hairbreadth 'scapes on this occasion; and it must be acknowledged, that she had got into a wrong seminary for the preservation of virtue. But, the old proverb says, “Necessity has no law;” and she was obliged to submit to her destiny.

It

It chanced one day, that while Lucy was parading the streets, with me concealed under her sleeve, a person whom she rushed by in her haste, and who had by some means lost his watch, laid hold of her, insisting that she had taken it; and she was conveyed before a justice, though it was evident that nothing would be found upon her, though a person in company pretended that he saw her convey something to a fellow behind her, who (he said) ran instantly off with it.

Though nothing could be a greater mistake than the conception of the first, nothing

more false than the assertion of the latter, yet the ragged condition of Lucy, and her profession of a beggar, were looked on as sufficient grounds of suspicion, as often such circumstances have been, against the innocent. On such presumption she appeared at the usual levée of Justice Trimmer, who finding no evidence that could criminate, discharged her, after a longer examination than a matter of such a nature required; and at her departure caused her to be followed till she was traced to a wretched lodging near the Black Dog in Broad St. Giles's.

Some

Some time after, she was sent for, and though not at home, was found in a neighbouring street where she had taken up her stand for begging, and told that a gentleman wanted to speak with her at a public house in the vicinity.

After a moment's hesitation, she went with the messenger, and was introduced into a back room ; where she found no less a person than him who erst armed with all the terrors of the law had caused her to tremble, waiting in the most social and agreeable manner to receive her.—

The justice, though above threescore, was one, who according to the old proverb, had yet a colt's tooth in his head. He questioned the girl, as to her situation, and receiving answers which arose from truth and simplicity, magnified his own lenity in not having committed her as a vagrant. Lucy acknowledged the favour, and the justice, being now quite mild, grew also more familiar. When he began to take liberties, simple as she was, she thought a little coyness necessary; however, in the end, she yielded so far as to shew him, that any thing might be done in proper time and place, and upon certain

tain conditions.—For her temporary compliance, his worship made her a present of a couple of guineas, desiring her to mend her appearance, and meet him the next evening at a more convenient place of appointment. When he kissed the lass at parting, I was on her neck, which perceiving, the unmerciful wretch took me off, and attempted to kill me by rubbing me between his fingers; but I slipped through them, and the frill of the shirt, at that time being luckily open, I fell into his bosom, where I lay without stirring for a considerable time, being much bruised; and, besides, afraid if I should

be caught by my sudden movement, that this old sinner would put me to death by torture.

However, I found myself safe enough, and had the opportunity of taking some notice of the justice's conduct. He went the next day, and appointed an hour to meet his Dulcinea; but she appeared not. He waited above two hours, when, as he was just going away, the landlady appeared, who told his worship, after many previous curtesies, that she was sorry to inform him that Lucy had quitted her house, having first dressed herself quite *fine*, as she was pleased to call it, and that she

WAS

was gone off with a genteel young man, who had seen her home on the first evening of her change of apparel; not forgetting to leave her thanks to a certain gentleman for all favours, with an observation, that she believed she should never see him more.

Justice Trimmer was not sufficiently master of himself to dissemble his resentment. He uttered some expressions not quite becoming his worshipful situation; regretted that “beggars should be chusers;” and, in his anger, gave poor fair-haired Lucy most heartily to the d——I--- for preferring a youth of nineteen, to an old man of seventy.

C H A P. XIII.

*Memoirs of the worshipful Personage ; ---
A Metamorphosis brought about by female Influence ; --- Various Characters, as drawn from the Life ; --- With suitable Reflexions ; --- being rather a short Chapter.*

THE worshipful justice Trimmer was one of those whom fortune chuses to treat as a favourite. He was born in the north of England, and his parents, who had only two children, this their eldest hope, and a girl a year younger, had no other expectation than of bringing him up to earn his daily bread by working in the coal-mines,

mines, with which those parts abounded. To this labour he was actually consigned, and was as well contented with his lot as those of his fellows who shared in the like trials with himself, till, when he had attained his seventeenth year, his sister who had gone to London to seek for a service, having met with the good luck of pleasing a single gentleman, was taken into keeping, and permitted to send for this her brother to town, in order to provide for him. Some time and money being spent in teaching him writing and accounts, he was articled to an eminent merchant; and having polished his
rude

rude manners, chanced to please both his master and the niece; a girl who was so forward, that at an early age it was deemed proper to marry her. Young Trimmer just then out of his clerkship, was pitched on to be the person, both because Miss, who was indulged in every thing, gave him the preference before any of her suitors, and because her trustees looked upon him as the best person to whom he could leave a business in which he had appeared to take delight, especially as the old gentleman had no male relations who were near enough of kin, and sufficiently esteemed to bequeath to them that or
any

any other remembrance of him.—

Mr. Trimmer therefore succeeded to the bride and to the business, his wife's uncle retiring to spend the remainder of his days in the country, where he died, and left the young couple all he was possessed of; including a considerable sum of money in the stocks, and a landed estate of upwards of 200 *l. per annum*.

After having long carried on trade successfully, Mr. Trimmer also retired, but not into the country; he rather chose to fix his quarters at the polite end of
the

the town, and (having obtained a *dedimus*) from an operator in the coal-mines at N——, he at last became a Westminster justice.

And why not? There are countries where transitions as extraordinary and more sudden are known to have happened; and where a vender of cakes has been made a prince and privy-counsellor, and a common carrier advanced to the high degree of a prime minister.

Justice Trimmer was resolved to do all that, in his opinion could merit the honour conferred

red on him. Having no settled principles to sway his conduct, he was whatever the Man-mountain for the time, was or chose his supporters should be. —A whig with the whig, a tory with the tory, a vicar of Bray; he made it his study to fall in with that party which had the *power* of obliging him, in order that the *will* might follow. People often found fault with him, and censured him for such conduct; but to be sure it was below his *worship* to notice their censures. He was a man of consequence, and he demeaned himself accordingly.

I for-

I forgot to tell you, that his sister luckily proving with child, had the address to persuade her keeper to marry her. The child died in the month, as did its father at the year's end, leaving the bulk of his fortune to Mrs. Wealthy, late Miss Trimmer, who held up her head in the world accordingly. Though it was said, now she was become a widow, she was not without her intrigues, yet she resolved never to venture on a second match; settling her fortune, in case she should die first, on Justice Trimmer, and the issue of his body lawfully begotten.

That

That issue was Dick Trimmer, who being an only son, was indulged, and spoiled accordingly. He had gone to grammar-school, and the university of Oxford, and he returned with as little improvement as the son of the first gentleman of the land could do. He drank, wenched, gamed, and was known for a buck of the first head. His visits to the church were rare indeed, more frequent at the play-house, but most of all, at the bagnio and gaming-table. As to his father, he came to see him when he was in want of pecuniary assistances, and the old gentleman was recompensed for the cash he supplied him with,

with, by the consideration of the spirit he shewed in expending it.

Justice Trimmer, as we have seen, had his follies as well as his son, though so many winters had whitened over his hairs, in the room of which his head was covered with a peruke, still more whitened over with powder.—Nor was he more officially diligent than he was morally or politically virtuous. He affected great skill at certain times, and spoke in the highest terms of the dignity and importance of the commission he held, which at other times he was too apt to disgrace.

He

He loved the parade of authority, and was peculiarly fond of being *worshipped*. — Now I cannot pretend to devise, what sentiments you may entertain, my good reader, on this subject; but I must be allowed to tell you, that in the opinion of an insect, it appears absurd in any man (himself but the insect of a day) to expect or affect to be called *worshipful*. — Custom indeed is pleaded for this title; but it is certainly as ridiculous at least, in its empty sound, as it would be impious in its actual application.

At the same time, this magistrate who wished to be *worshipped*:

shipped, frequently conducted himself so ill, as to forfeit not only the respect attendant on magistracy, but even that due to a man. — He was generally too much actuated by prejudice to be free and impartial in his determinations ; and his inclinations to arbitrary decisions, rendered him often unfit to decide at all upon affairs the most important.

With such a disposition, and possessed of so few good qualities, any one endowed with but a moderate share of understanding might perceive by what prevailing power he was constituted and supported ; but they
wonder

wonder not at these things who have made mankind their study. Wealth and interest are such common substitutes for abilities and integrity, that the case is continually occurring; and men, in general, may conclude it to be *a thing of course* for such as possess the former in any considerable degree, to care little about the latter.—

Such was the *worshipful* Justice Trimmer; while his son seemed labouring to make the old proverb true, “Neither good egg, nor bird,” as we have already begun to shew the reader.

When

When Dick was on one of his filial visits, as he was conversing with the justice, happening to bite his worship's neck pretty smartly, he endeavoured to catch me between his finger and thumb; but I leaped, unobserved, upon Dick's laced waistcoat, from whence I soon made way to his shirt, and in due time got a situation next his skin; which, however, I was often obliged to change, especially when he shifted his linen, from a regard to my personal safety.

Whilst I remained with this young gentleman, I had the opportunity

portunity of observing a buck's life, which I believe to be much the same in all the respectable persons who come under that description. I was often witness to bilking of wh——es and hackney-coachmen, knocking down watchmen, and the consequences attending it, of “durance vile,”—and was privy to the commission of all those acts of debauchery, which return in a constant round during the course of such a life. These, I suppose, to have been already so well described by abler pens than mine, that I shall not detain the reader with a detail of them. I shall only say, that my abode with him was not

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long, and mention the circumstance which occasioned me to change my quarters. As young Mr. Trimmer was busied in pulling about a little millener, I fell from his locks, in which I had been entangled, upon her handkerchief, and soon got myself into a closer connexion with her.—However, my abode with the young woman was the shortest that I had made with any person of either sex, since first I was brought into existence. — Just after her return, as she stood behind the counter, a lady about nineteen entered, in order to purchase some articles in that way; and while she was bargaining for them, a sudden

sudden application of mine, obliging the girl to disturb me, I came out from my hiding-place, and took refuge, though unseen with the fair customer; and I had the pleasure of being carried home with her.

The name of this lady was Louisa M——, she was the daughter of a worthy tradesman in considerable business: she had received an education suitable to her genius, and was endowed with many considerable accomplishments, together with an affability and sweetness of temper which caused her to be beloved by all that knew her. — Her person was as

amiable as her mind. She was about the middle size; of a fair complexion, with amber locks, fine blue eyes, and a skin of a dazzling whiteness; the rose and lily vied in her complexion. Her neck resembled ivory, and while her shape was formed in the exactest symmetry, down to her taper waist, her full bosom that heaved “with youth
“wild throbbing,” when by chance any parts of it was revealed, displayed a full and pure expanse of animated snow.—

What a pity that such a fine creature should have any thing to make her unhappy! but infelicity is the lot of humanity.
She

She had met with a disappointment of that kind which most affects young people. She had loved, and was beloved by a youth, whose mind and person were alike engaging, but, alas! his rank in life was deemed too high for her by those who pretended to judge for him. He was the nephew and heir of a baronet of large estate, and allied to nobility. His uncle could not endure to think his kinsman should marry, as he said, so far beneath him, though this *good* old gentleman was heard to declare, “ That if it had been
 “ only an affair of gallantry with
 “ the girl [for *gallantry*, rather
 “ read *infamy*] then he should

not have disapproved it."——

As it was, he had sent the young gentleman abroad on his travels two years before, with a resolution to look out for what he might think a more suitable match for him before his return to England.

Louisa had pined much in his absence, as all correspondence between the lovers had been prevented; but having heard the arrival of the youth was shortly expected, hope began to revive in her bosom, restoring those charms whose lustre grief had before impaired. Her father indeed, had continually exhorted her to arm herself

self with fortitude against the disappointment of such hope, which he had reason to apprehend would be inevitable.— He, indeed, highly approved of the choice of her heart; but argued to convince her, where this interfered with her duty or apparent advantage. He argued to convince his daughter's *reason*; but *passion* is not so easily convinced, and expectations will rise upon the slightest grounds, where they are nursed by strong desires.

This was the case of Louisa. Her lover arrived, fought, and obtained a private interview with her; but all the tidings

she received were of a disagreeable nature. His uncle had been as good as his word, in looking out for a woman with whom he intended to unite him. He found one in the person of a rich widow of a middle age, the relict of a Knight, and cousin to a nobleman famous upon the turf.

The widow possessed not, nor had she ever any powerful attractions, except of such a nature as those above-mentioned; and such could have made no impression on Charles Saville, even if his heart had not been previously disposed of to one of the most engaging of her sex.—

But

But it was in vain to plead all this to the old gentleman, who was at this time rendered more ill-humoured. Charles had offered to marry Louisa at all hazards; but she had strenuously refused to take a step, which at such a juncture, was only likely to tend to the ruin of the person whom she most loved on earth, as well as involving herself with him in endless embarrassments, as she was sensible her father would never consent to such a marriage, and would be provoked beyond measure if it was solemnized without his knowledge.—He was ignorant of this meeting, by which Louisa was
almost

almost ready to blame herself for consenting; and, notwithstanding the mutual inclination of both parties to see and converse together after such an absence, yet they seemed to part less satisfied than they had met; so little often are people able to estimate justly what will give them pleasure in various situations.

C H A P. XIV.

Being the LAST, but not the least entertaining in the Book ; --- Containing an Escape ; --- A meeting with an old Acquaintance ; --- Two Lovers made happy ; --- CONCLUSION.

AN insect of such feelings as I have described myself to be (and it is from this work only that you can learn my character) could not but compassionate the sufferings of those whose misfortunes were not the consequence of their demerits. Louisa M—— was not of such a disposition as to be loud in complainings ; but
often

often have the tears trickled from her lovely eyes in secret; often in secret has her bosom heaved with sighs, that bosom open to my visits, but where Charles at that time would have the riches of worlds, had he possessed them, to repose himself. It was on her fair breast that I was settled one morning at my ease, not in the least dreaming how soon I was to change my situation, when unluckily and fatally as it was likely to have proved for me, I was discovered by the young lady's maid, Molly, before I had time to avail myself of my swiftness to escape her.

The

The merciless jade exclaiming, “ Bless me, madam, what “ a nasty black thing is here,” took hold of me, and walking towards the chimney, immediately cast me, as she thought, into the fire; but I had the good fortune to fall between the bars on the hearth, and to hop unnoticed to the carpet, where I remained for some hours.—

The very next time that this wench came into the room, I found means to get from thence to her stocking, and climbed to her thigh, where, for the first time, I bit her most severely.

Thus I escaped, to live with one who was the very reverse of the beautiful Louisa. — But

I had the happiness here to meet with the only male of my species, whom, as a Flea of constancy, I selected for the partner of my life.—

However, Molly staid not long in her place. She was succeeded by my old friend Betty, who having quitted Mrs. Leeson, got a recommendation to this family.

I had the luck to escape from Molly to her, with my partner, by which means I became acquainted with the sequel of Louisa's history. — Her lover having absolutely refused to pay his addresses to the widow, pitched upon by his uncle, was
pre-

preparing again to leave his country, and literally to seek his fortune; when the indisposition of the latter increased so much, that he lay at the point of death.—While in this awful situation, he caused a search to be made for the young gentleman, who being happily found, received his full consent to be joined in marriage with the most amiable of sex.

The young lovers having paid the last of duties to the baronet, were united in the bonds of wedlock; and now, after having overcome all difficulties, they live in the possession of every enjoyment that can render sensible and deserving people happy.

THUS,

THUS, gentle Reader, have I here endeavoured to exhibit a variety of interesting scenes, and brought you acquainted with some extraordinary characters. If the matter contained deserves attention, I trust you will not quarrel with the vehicle which conveys it.—The author had two objects in view, amusement and instruction ; if he has imparted these in the degree he could wish, whatever may be the opinions of some, the principal end will be answered, while he has the consolation of thinking that any body may be the merrier or the wiser for the perusal of this performance.

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